

Backgrounder

Jeff Barke, MD

and his wife Mari

While [Hoag Hospital](#) (Newport Beach & Irvine) has very strict protocols in place during the Coronavirus pandemic regarding hospital guests, mask wearing, temperature checks, social distancing, etc. a Hoag affiliated doctor, [Jeff Barke](#) (JB) (Jeffrey Ian Barke), is using social media and public forums (the Orange County CA Board of Supervisors, Orange County Board of Education, etc) to espouse advice contrary to both the hospital's protocols and the guidelines of the US Centers for Disease Control. Although trained in medicine, Dr. Barke frequently expresses various opinions challenging the science surrounding climate change, infectious diseases, etc.

Barke was recruited by the Trump presidential campaign to go out and attack America's public health experts like Dr Anthony Fauci, the director of the CDC and the US Surgeon General to provide cover for Trump's attempts to prematurely re-open the economy in Spring 2020. It should also be noted that Barke's various political shenanigans have helped his son land various jobs in the Trump administration.

JB is affiliated with [PersonalCarePhysicians.com](#), a medical group with offices in Newport & Irvine. He is a family medicine concierge physician with out-patient only privileges at Hoag. His CA medical license number is [G 72290](#). His license expires August 31, 2021.

On the one hand, JB dismisses protocols designed to keep patients safe during the pandemic and on the other hand, he gladly takes care of patients who are diagnosed positive with COVID-19 because they failed to wear masks, social distance or employ other best practices most medical professionals advise. Yes, Dr Barke makes money when people get sick with COVID-19.

Even though Orange County is home to a world class research hospital and medical school, the chairwoman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors Michelle Steel has hand-picked Barke, a family medicine doctor, to be Orange County's "Emergency Medical Care Commissioner" during the Coronavirus pandemic. Jeff & Mari Barke have contributed to Steel's campaign to unseat Rep Harley Rouda and endorsed her campaign. Steel has endorsed Jeff Barke's 2020 campaign to serve as a director of the Rossmoor Community Services District. The Barkes live in Rossmoor.

Shockingly, during the Coronavirus pandemic, Dr. Barke has attended various large public rallies and gatherings of COVIDeniers & Trumpists opposed to the rules the government and public health agencies have put in place to protect the public. Photographs suggest he did not wear a mask while participating in those risky circumstances.

There is nothing to suggest that Barke self-quarantined for 14-days after attending those rallies where it was subsequently reported that others who attended were exposed and infected with COVID-19 at the same rallies. It's also unclear whether or not JB informed his colleagues or patients that he had made risky decisions and likely been exposed to others with the virus.

JB is an elected member of the Orange County (CA) Republican Central Committee. He is a member of the Lincoln Club of Orange County, a group that funds Republican candidates. A review of his social media posts suggests he's either sympathetic to the QAnon group of conspiracy theory activists or himself a QAnon activist. He is a known science denier.

JB was previously elected to the Los Alamitos Unified School District Board of Education (about 2006-2018). While on the Los Al School Board, he was one of the majority who demanded a science teacher tell the board annually [how they planned to teach opposing views on climate change](#). When local parents got familiar with JB's attempts to shove creationism, climate change denial, etc. on Los Al kids, they ran a candidate against him. He was defeat in his bid for re-election.

JB is founder and [chairman of the board](#) of [Orange County Classical Academy](#) (OCCA), a charter school to be located in Orange, CA, that has yet to open its doors. It's unclear what his financial interest is in the school but he's clearly pushing for full and complete opening of k-12 schools in Orange County even during the pandemic. The Classical Academy claims it will use curriculum from Hillsdale College, a school with ties to the family of US Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. According to a [bio](#) from a conference in which Dr Barke participated, one of the Barke children is a graduate of Hillsdale College. OCCA doesn't appear to be the idea of local so-called "founding families" but rather a pursuit of Barke and a GOP ally, attorney Mark Bucher. Neither Barke or Bucher live in Orange or have school-aged children. Bucher, however has a history installing and working with right-wing members of the Orange Unified School Board. That no doubt influenced the location of OCCA.

JB's wife Mari Barke (MB) is an elected member (2018-2022) of the Orange County Board of Education. (OCBOE). In 2018 she ran an aggressive campaign against incumbent David Boyd. She raised an unprecedented amount of money -- nearly half a million dollars -- most of which came from a charter schools PAC. Previous campaigns for OCBOE have spent far less than \$100,000. MB represents District 2 serving: Cypress, Huntington Beach, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Rossmoor, Seal Beach, Stanton, Sunset Beach, Westminster, and portions of Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley and Garden Grove.

MB's campaign for the Board of Education raised \$286,439 from prominent contributors -- nearly \$500,000 in total. More than \$245,000 came from the Charter Public Schools PAC and she also got a \$15,000 transfer from a colleague's campaign committee, Lisa Sparks, who received \$84,862 from the same PAC. Sparks -- a Dean at Chapman University and married to Chapman's President Daniele Struppa-- ran in the 2020 CA-45 Congressional Primary but failed to advance to the November Election. Rep Katie Porter currently represents CA-45.

Four of the five current members of the Board of Education -- including MB & Sparks -- are pro-charter schools and GOP political allies of JB and Bucher. A pro-charters candidate ran against incumbent Rebecca Gomez. The challenger lost. The Board majority (MB, Sparks, Ken Williams & Tim Shaw) has strong ties to the Orange County Republican Central Committee. It's unclear what help or influence the Board of Education could have regarding JB's charter school, OCCA.

[MB's bio on her campaign website](#) reads, "As a teacher and parent of students..." Clearly she wants voters to see her as a "teacher" even more so than a parent. There are no records suggesting Mrs Barke is or was an accredited school teacher, at least not in the way she wants readers (voters) to believe. She may help teach, as part of a community program, English as a second language to adults in Santa Ana.

After the 2018 campaign in which Mari Barke won a seat on the OC Board of Education, she became a consultant for the California Policy Center (CPC), a group that helped her get elected. A year later, she lists herself on various federal campaign contribution reports as an "executive" at CPC.

Also of note, [Jeffrey I Barke](#) was [affiliated with Online Training Academy](#) which was under investigation by the US Attorney Southern District of California and was [sued for fraud in Feb 2020](#) by

the Federal Trade Commission. Barke was part of the team which may have also included salesforce. OTA reportedly targeted senior citizens and stripped many of them of their savings. The Better Business Bureau records numerous [complaints about OTA](#). JB's zoom bio affiliated with OTA, suggests he's an Associate Clinical Professor at UC Irvine. There is no available evidence of that. Seems Mr & Mr Barke have both somewhat exaggerated their "teaching" experiences.

Here are some of Mari Barke's other affiliations:

National Charity League;

Fisher House (Helping Military & Veterans' Families);

Cypress College, Business and Computer Information System, Advisory Committee Member;

Hillsdale College, President's Club & Parents Association Steering Committee;

Los Alamitos Chamber of Commerce; and

Cypress Chamber of Commerce

Dr Jeff Barke participates with these insurance providers:

Aetna PPO

Blue Cross Prudent Buyer PPO

Blue Shield PPO

CIGNA PPO

Health Net PPO

Multiplan/PHCS

United Healthcare PPO

They should become aware of his failure to employ best practices during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Previously [Dr Barke was busted in a drug sting](#) providing a prescription for Viagra to a "patient" he had never met in person.

Dr Barke, a QAnon sympathizer/activist, who [promotes various conspiracy theories](#), has appeared on Fox News to push his unorthodox ideas.

In 2006, Dr Barke was [named in a wrongful death lawsuit](#). And [related legal proceedings in 2008](#).

[Dr Barke was involved in the high profile brutal rape trial](#) of Gregory Haidl, son of a politically connected OC Sheriff.

[From 2016 through 2020, the Barks contributed more than \\$30,000 to federal election campaigns](#).

[Jeff Barke was sued by Hoag](#) Health which alleges Barke, his business partner and their practice Personal Care Physicians owes Hoag more than \$500,000.

In September 2020, Hoag Health disavowed and distanced itself from Dr. Jeff Barke in a [statement released on Twitter](#). Among other things, Hoag called Barke's ideas on COVID, masking and hydroxychloroquine "radical" and noted they were "inconsistent with those of all recognized medical and scientific organizations."

In a September 2020 video interview posted to YouTube by Peggy Hall and then since removed, Dr Barke brandishes a gun while discussing the wearing of masks and suggests the gun will protect him in Orange County more than a mask.

LA Times: [Orange County Doctor Brandishes Gun in Antimasking Video](#)

LA Times: [Hospital Officials, Leaders Distance Themselves From Gun-Waving Antimask OC Doctor](#)

OC Register: [Orange County Doctor Pulls Out Gun in Antimasking Video](#)

KTLA: [In Since Removed Antimask Video OC Doctor Waves Gun](#)

FOXLA: [A Gun, Not a Mask](#)

KABC: [Antimask Doctor Pulls Out Gun in COVID Video](#)

Tech Times: [California Doctor Claims His 9MM Gun Offers More Protection Against COVID](#)

Newsmax: [Antimask Doctor Pulls Out Gun](#)

Want to leave reviews about Dr. Barke?

Leave a review/rating of [Dr. Barke on Healthgrades](#)

Leave a review/rating of [Dr. Barke on WebMD](#)

Leave a review/rating of [Dr. Barke on ShareCare](#)

Leave a Yelp! Review on [Personal Care Physicians - Newport Beach](#)

Leave a Yelp! Review on [Personal Care Physicians - Irvine](#)

File a complaint with the Medical Board of California <https://www.mbc.ca.gov/Breeze/Complaints.aspx>

Dr Barke's Social Media Channels

[Facebook](#)

Facebook [rxforliberty](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

Personal Care Physicians Social Media Channels

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

OC Classics Academy

[Facebook](#)

[Rate/Comment](#)

Mari Barke's Social Media/Internet Channels

[Website](#)

[Twitter](#)

A video of Dr Barke at an outdoor COVIDeniers rally was [fact checked by Politifact](#)

Want to share details, facts, documents, etc. about Jeff or Mari Barke? Use **#DirtyJeff** on Twitter.

For more on Mari Barke, also review bit.ly/BarkeSparksUnderTheInfluence