

dicta

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

WHO'S WHO AT SJCL

by Mary Ann Bluhm

The San Joaquin College of Law is a private, non-profit institution for legal education. It was founded in 1969. SJCL is a fully accredited law school in the State of California.

The Board of Trustees of SJCL is responsible for ultimate decisions of school policy including such matters as administrative and educational goals and guidelines, faculty selection and termination, growth, future building projects, financing, etc. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees is Vance L. Clark. The other Board members are William A. Buzick, Jr., Michael Cardenas, Donald R. Franson, James T. Hallowell, John E. Loomis, Leon S. Peters, Leland D. Sterling, Oliver W. Wanger, and Arthur J. Wiebe. The Board of Trustees meets quarterly, with meetings generally held in the months of March, June, September and December. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for December 13, 1977. In order for an item to be placed on the agenda of a Board of Trustees meeting, it must be submitted in writing at least 15 days before the date of the meeting.

The College of Law Advisory Board is composed of the following members: M.D. Crocker, Donald Fretz, Leonard M. Ginsburg, Russell Giffen, Jack L. Hammerberg, Mrs. Joseph W. Levy, Charles A. Looney, Mrs. Seymour Mathiesen, Leonard I. Meyers, Ralph Moradian, Ben Nakamura, Robert R. Rosson, William E. Spaulding, Mikio Uchiyama, Walter Wagner, and Philip H. Wile.

The two-man administration at SJCL consists of Dean John E. Loomis, and Assistant Dean Oliver W. Wanger. The administration meets at least once a month to consider the various adminis-

trative and financial matters which arise concerning the school.

The faculty of SJCL is made up of adjunct professors and adjunct assistant professors. The classification of adjunct professor is reserved for those instructors in substantive courses who have three or more years of law school teaching experience. An instructor of a substantive course having less than three years of law school teaching experience is classified as an adjunct assistant professor. The following instructors are adjunct professors of law: Hollis G. Best, John E. Loomis, James R. Luppino, Richard E. Salisch, L. Stanley Tuccori and Oliver Wanger. The adjunct assistant professors are Barry J. Bennett, Timothy Born, Anthony Dennis Caeton, Michael W. Case, Norman Fletcher, Mary Louise Frampton, James V. Henry, Donald Horvath, John H. Missirlian, Victoria J. Salisch, and Lawrence E. Viau, Jr.

Matters of faculty appointment and classification are originated with the Faculty Committee. The Committee makes its recommendations to the administration, who, in turn, recommend appropriate appointments to the Board of Trustees. The Faculty Committee is composed of those members of the faculty who are adjunct professors. Richard E. Salisch is the Chairman of the Faculty Committee.

Susan K. Wanger is the registrar of the school, and Dorothy A. Norman is employed as the law librarian on a part-time basis.

There are 116 students enrolled at SJCL for the academic year 1977-1978. Student Body President, Dan Koontz, presides over all meetings of the student association and student board. He also attends all faculty meetings and Board of Trustees meetings as an ex-officio member. The other stu-

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President Koontz giving a word of wisdom to fellow students.



Class of '81 Photos by Luck

KOONTZ WELCOMES ROOKIES

ORIENTATION '77

by Daniel Koontz

Orientation for the new freshman class at SJCL was held Aug. 25. It has been customary for the Student Association to offer this program in hopes that it will ease some of the pain of the first year of law school.

This year's program was organized and narrated by Greg Myers, who is a 2nd year representative on the Student Association board. Greg's program took specific aim at preparing the students for the shock that sometimes comes when first year students are asked for their first week to read 500 pages and brief 50 cases.

The presentation included an opening statement and greeting by Student Association President Dan Koontz. President Koontz showed why he is floundering in law school... it is obvious that he is moonlighting as a standup comedian in some obscure Fresno nightclub. Dan in his attempts to relax the obviously nervous crowd resorted to such interesting phrases as "the law is like a jealous mistress", and the very humorous quip, "traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice" to keep the audience in stitches for the duration of his clever speech.

Not to be outdone vice president

of the Student Association Jim Weakley took his turn at the lecture. Jim discussed the extra curricular opportunities that were being offered to first year students. Jim stressed some of the new clubs that have been formed on the campus such as his favorite, the SJCL Study Club. Jim stated that the Study Club this year will be looking at ways to get around the rule of Hadley v. Baxendale and also how to institute the defense of frustration into criminal law.

Some very helpful statements were made by 2nd year student Linda Bonnet. Linda's presentation dealt with suggestions concerning how to study in law school. Linda, who is at the top of her class, academically discussed various methods of approaching the vast amount of material that will be expected of the 1st year students. During the course of her presentation an outspoken 1st year student asked about "canned" outlines and briefs. It was pointed out very ably by Linda that such superficial aids had no place in such an institution of legal learning. In fact as all we students know, these so-called learning aids are in fact part of a "leftist plot" aimed at destroying the law students ability to think and be creative. It is for this reason, Linda pointed out, that so few students use these useless devices.

If at this point the "rookie" students were not completely baffled,

the last subject of the evening was waiting in the wings to do just that. "How to take an exam" was the title of the presentation by 2nd year student Bob Giovacchini. As all law students know, one of the most fun things about law school is final exams. All law students also know that a few simple hints will assure even the most questionable law student an excellent grade. With this in mind Bob gave a few simple rules. Perhaps it would be helpful for all the law students to remember what these rules are. Briefly the rules are: (1) spot the issue, (2) know the law, and (3) write your answer as if you were a Supreme Court Justice. As Bob pointed out the worst thing that can happen if you flunk an exam is that you may have to go before the faculty committee and ask if you can take it over.

At the culmination of the program it was agreed by all that the information and ideas conveyed would make the first year a snap. However as one views the glass-eyed, stoop-shouldered first year class staggering to and from class one has to ask if there was perhaps something that we left out of the orientation program. Or perhaps it is possible that the first year of law school is not as much fun as we made it out to be at orientation?

In conclusion this author had better make a few things straight.

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THE DEAN'S CORNER

By Dean John Loomis

I am pleased to accept the invitation to contribute a few remarks to the Dicta on a regular basis. During the course of a year a goodly number of events take place which I have previously felt frustrated in the lack of a means to communicate them effectively to our students. Two such events are now in my mind, and I welcome this opportunity to reflect upon them.

First of all, we are beginning a new academic year. I am pleased and gratified to see so many familiar faces in the library and on the campus. Welcome back for another round. I also am pleased to meet the new first year group and welcome you to the endeavour you've elected to undertake. I wish I could express my sentiments individually to each student.

Secondly, I want to share with you my recent visit as an observer at the Committee of Bar Examiners meeting with the graders of the last Bar Examination. This session ran some twelve hours. It was attended by the Committee, some dozen law school representatives, the dozen re-readers and virtually all of the sixty readers. I was singularly impressed with the seriousness and dedication of all of these people with respect to the task they have.

The Reader's Conference is designed to achieve uniformity in grading. Before the conference, each grader for each question had read the same seventy-five answers to his or her assigned question selected randomly and had proposed a grade for it. The re-readers read and proposed grades for the same questions. These results were tabulated and available to the Committee.

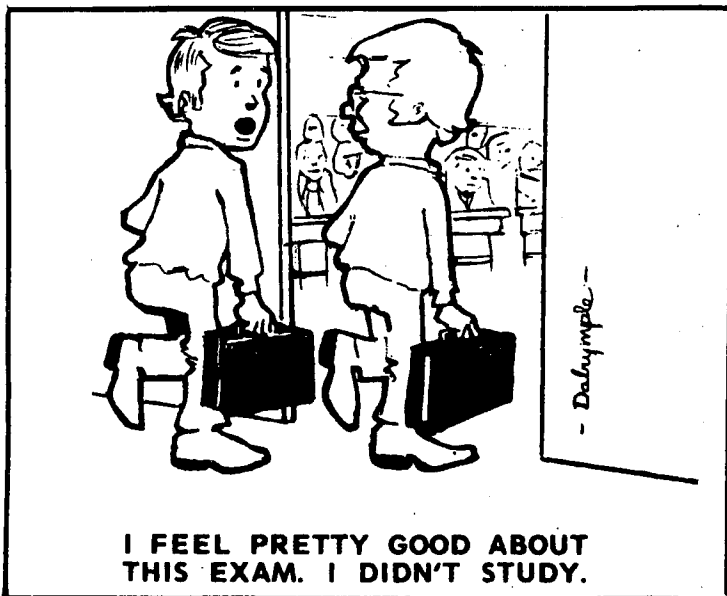
The Committee in turn had caused several answers to each question to be copied and available for discussion. Answers in which grading disparities were observed were used, and we were

furnished with them for use during the session.

The grader team for each question appeared separately before the Committee. The questions were rereviewed, law school comment was sought as to the fairness of each question and a consensus was reached with respect to what matters should be discussed in an answer. The particular answers furnished were reviewed and discussed and reconciliation of disparities in grades was sought and effected.

Throughout this process, I was particularly gratified to be able to reach the conclusions that: 1) The Bar Examination is being conscientiously and competently graded, 2) the possibility of passing or failing resulting from the fact there are different graders reading the same question is minimal — (the principle of de minimus applies) and, 3) an objective standard influenced by "quotas" or "curves" is followed.

May the foregoing relieve all you from some of the paranoia I know exists on this most important subject.



Orientation

Some of the statements in this article are a bit exaggerated, in fact some of this is a lie. The truth has been stretched so as to render this article readable. What is important is that we wish the first year students much success. Also a sincere word of thanks goes to Linda Bonnet, Bob Giovacchini, and Jim Weakley for a lot of hard work and a job well done. An especial thanks is in order to Greg Myers who organized orientation this year. We hope that the presentation offered some advice and hints that will make the adjustment into law school a bit easier.

Who's Who

dent body officers are Vice President, Jim Weakley; Secretary, Mary Ann Bluhm; and Treasurer, Kay Tuttle. The officers meet with the administration on the last Tuesday of each month to discuss matters of student concern.

The classes are represented in the student association by the following representatives: Fourth Year Night, Bob Gilmore and Norma Crane; Third Year Day, Marv Helon and Angus Saint-Evens; Third Year Night, Marla Keller and Fran Wessel; Second Year Night, Greg Myers. An election will be held in late October to determine the First Year Night Representatives and an additional Second Year Night Representative. Phil Mach serves as the Parliamentarian for the student association. The parliamentarian attends all student board meetings to assure that proper parliamentary procedure is followed. He advises the presiding officer on questions of order and interprets the bylaws of the association.

Further information about SJCL can be obtained by contacting the registrar at the college mailing address: San Joaquin College of Law, 1717 South Chestnut, Fresno, California 93702; or by phone: (209) 251-7512.

DOES BIG MEAN GOOD?

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