

Inter Alia

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The Newsletter of
San Joaquin
College of Law

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Judge O'Neill Roast Highlights '91 Spring Banquet

SJCL's Annual Spring Banquet proved once again to be a full evening, ranging from a number of special recognitions, scholarships and awards to the traditional "Roasting," which this year targeted the Hon. Lawrence J. O'Neill.

The Banquet is sponsored each year by the SJCL Student Association.

Participating in this year's Roast were O'Neill's long-time friends Rick Husmann, Bob Maginnis, Steven J. Kane (who also served as Master of the Roast) and the Judge's sister Kit Wersching. SJCL fourth-year law student Loretta Ramos also offered her own "impressions" on behalf of the students.

Greaver; Nuttall, Berman and Assoc. Criminal Law Scholarship: *Moses Mendoza*; SJCL Student Association Paralegal Scholarship: *Barbara Rose*; SJCL Student Association Oliver W. Wanger Scholarship: *Rose Mohan*; and Teacher of the Year Award: *Oliver W. Wanger*.

Outstanding Student of the Year Awards went to: Judith Hall, Fourth Year; Leah Cole, Third Year; Rosie Rusca, Second Year; Donn Furman, First Year; and Barbara Rose, Paralegals.

New Officers for the SJCL Student Association were also announced for the upcoming year. They are: Patricia Williams,



Justice James A. Ardaiz gets his share of jabs at Judge Lawrence O'Neill, who was the recipient of this year's "Roast" at the annual Spring Banquet.

The following awards and recognitions were announced at the Banquet: Alumni Association Carolyn T. Mirviss Scholarship: *Karen Ketendjian*; Family Law Scholarship: *Patricia Williams*; Fresno Daily Report Research and Writing Scholarship: *Dorothy Corless*; James K. and Carol Sellers Herbert Scholarship: *Alfred Gallegos*; Magill Scholarship for Excellence in Constitutional Law: *Karen Moisi*; Magill Scholarship for Excellence in Tort Law: *Dorothy Corless*; Myers and Overstreet Scholarship: *Barbara*

President; Trudi Manfreda, Vice-President; Wanda Willis, Secretary; Stan Teixeira, Treasurer; Hal Farley and Carol Moses, Fourth-Year Representatives; Kathy Marousek and Jane Woodcock, Third-Year Representatives; Brian Austin and Pat Pinto, Second-Year Representatives.

Tributes were also made to the late Hon. Mario G. Olmos by fourth-year student Kevin O'Casey and to the late Jack Tipton by second-year student Rosie Rusca. ■

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

SJCL is in the fifth year of its six-year candidacy period for accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). WASC is the regional accrediting entity for senior colleges and universities in California and the Pacific Rim. Every degree-granting institution from the University of California, Berkeley to SJCL must satisfy its standards within the context of the institution's mission.

WASC accreditation is both a result and a process. Accreditation recognizes an institution as stable and competent within the higher



education community. It makes SJCL eligible for a wider array of federal and private grants and is essential to SJCL's eligibility for federal financial aid. SJCL's principal goal has always been access

to legal education for all residents of the southern San Joaquin Valley area. Without financial aid, that goal would only be a dream for many.

As a process, WASC accreditation is one of self-evaluation, criticism, and attempt at improvement. At SJCL, this process has, for example, resulted in the creation of a Development Unit that has raised more than \$300,000 in contributions and grants over its first five years. Self-examination in light of the WASC standards has also led to improvements in curriculum, administrative reorganization, and accounting, to name a few.

This process of self-evaluation is aided by periodic campus visits by monitoring teams from other institutions. They make recommendations and assess SJCL's progress towards meeting the full accreditation standards. I want to share with you some of the observations and concerns from the report of the most recent site team.

First, the team was overwhelmingly impressed by the caliber and commitment of the part-time faculty. However, they expressed concern as to whether part-time faculty could fill all the roles required of faculty by their standards. Those include

student advisement, library development, ongoing curriculum review, academic support for struggling students, and faculty evaluation.

There are important functions full-time faculty can play at SJCL—administrative functions in addition to teaching—but those of us long familiar with the school recognize that its greatest strengths are the ability of its students and its part-time faculty. The part-time faculty bring a wealth of experience and perspective to the classroom, an emphasis no one has a desire to change.

Our task then is to find the best balance of full and part-time faculty. We need to involve part-time faculty in every aspect of the academic affairs of the school—for example, by asking each part-time faculty member to serve on one working committee. We need to define the role of full-time faculty as nurturers of the involvement of part-time faculty in order to supplement the part-time faculty.

Second, because SJCL has grown rapidly and become a more complex institution than even five years ago, the WASC team urged SJCL to re-examine and formalize the relationships between the Board, Board Committees, Dean, Faculty, and Faculty Committees. It is our obligation to plan for the day when key people might leave the school or perhaps suffer an accident. The Board began this process in a recent Board retreat—the first ever—to talk about the mission and future of SJCL.

Third, the WASC team urged SJCL to continue its efforts to find a larger and more functional physical plant and to expand its library collections. There is an intense effort on numerous fronts by faculty and staff at this time to locate a larger but affordable facility. Although no specific site has been settled upon at this time, we hope to have a direction in our sights by the end of the academic year.

Fourth, recognizing the diversity of the southern San Joaquin Valley, the WASC team encouraged SJCL to continue its efforts to attract larger numbers of minority students, faculty, and Board members to the school in order to truly serve its objectives of access to legal education.

None of this is easy or simple. As I told the WASC Commission in late February, one objective of WASC candidacy seems to be placing an institution in constant turmoil—but *good* turmoil, always questioning the manner in which things get done and trying to do them even better. ■

Janice L. Pearson
Dean

FACULTY 1990-91

L A W

Marc C. Ament
Hon. James Ardaiz
Lawrence M. Artenian
Barry J. Bennet
Meggin Boranian
Richard M. Cartier
Hon. A. Dennis Caeton
D. Greg Durbin
John P. Eleazarian
John M. Evans
Christine Goodrich
Paul Herbert
Clint H. Horwitz
James M. Hurley
Ellen Jahn
Denise Kerner
Hon. Vincent J. McGraw
Douglas E. Noll
Hon. Lawrence J. O'Neill
Edwin A. Oeser
Janice L. Pearson
James H. Pelioian
Sally A. Perring
Sarah A. Schmidt
Jack Tipton
Riley Walter
Oliver W. Wanger

P A R A L E G A L

Lawrence M. Artenian
Frank Butler
Gwen Carrigan
Michael Carrigan
Richard Cartier
Peter Cummings
Bob Hurlbett
Don Fischbach
Karen Kern
Denise Kerner
Doug Noll
Patty Noyes
Harry Pascuzzi
Jeff Simonian
Kevin Swanson
Luke Temple
Riley Walter

T A X

Darlene Azevedo
Dennis Bean
Carl Campbell
Ronald Henderson
James Ledbetter
James Pelioian
James Shepard
Robert S. Swanton
Curtis Wong

SJCL To Host National Ag Law Moot Court Competition

Building on its national recognition in moot court competitions, San Joaquin College of Law will be serving as host for the National Agricultural Advocacy Competitions (NAAC), an annual event to be held starting in February, 1992.

The Competitions are to be the first of their kind in law school advocacy contests. Top law students from across the United States and Canada will have the opportunity to participate in three separate competitions: the San Joaquin National Agricultural Law Moot Court Competition, the National Agricultural Law Closing Arguments Contest and the Persuasive Speaking Contest.

The proposal for the NAAC was submitted by SJCL Moot Court Director Sarah Schmidt ('88), C.D. Harbottle ('90) and Robert Hurlbett ('90), who also comprise

A number of high profile agricultural organizations and individuals have already committed their associations to the NAAC. These include the Deans of the Schools of

"Participating schools will have unique opportunities that are unmatched by any other advocacy program."

Agriculture at California State University, Fresno and Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, as well as the National Cattleman's Association and other agricultural groups across the country.

As the NAAC Board of Directors recognizes, the San Joaquin Valley, particu-

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVOCACY COMPETITIONS

the NAAC Board of Directors. The SJCL Board of Trustees have approved the proposal and competition directors are actively coordinating the efforts of industry consultants, SJCL students and the local community in planning the event.

Preliminary discussions have already been held with the Tulare Farm Show and International Exposition to have the persuasive speaking contest held in conjunction with the Farm Show.

According to Sarah Schmidt, the multifaceted NAAC will attract top law schools from across the United States.

"Participating schools will have unique opportunities that are unmatched by any other advocacy program," she explains. "In addition to having the opportunity to be exposed to some of the nation's top agricultural industry representatives, a number of special awards and distinctions will be offered."

The "Best Appellant" and "Best Respondent" briefs will be published in SJCL's *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*.

larly Fresno, is the ideal location to host this annual event, given the Valley's premier role in the development of the agriculture industry. The Competitions provide further support for the fact that San Joaquin College of Law plays a vital role in the development and ongoing discussion of agricultural law.

Individuals interested in becoming part of the National Agricultural Advocacy Competitions are encouraged to contact one of the NAAC Board of Directors: Sarah Schmidt (442-1150), Robert Hurlbett (442-1150) or C. D. Harbottle (733-8151).

The Board of Directors and those associated with this exciting project have vowed that the professionalism with which the NAAC is administered will become a role model for other advocacy competitions.

More details will be available soon regarding specific dates for the NAAC as well as a list of participating schools and sponsors. ■

Paralegal Program Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary

This year, Anniversary celebrations seem to be in vogue at SJCL.

Complementing the 20 Year Anniversary of the founding of SJCL, the Law School's Paralegal program is celebrating its own 10 Year Anniversary.

According to Pam Ramirez, SJCL Paralegal Program Director, plans call for a celebration this fall that will bring together as many paralegal alumni as possible. Over the past decade, more than 300 individuals have successfully completed the 12 month Paralegal course at SJCL and received Certificates of Paralegalism.

According to Pam, who has been coordinating the Paralegal program since 1984, the focus is placed on a solid background of civil litigation, research and writing.

"Our aim is to produce skilled professionals able to assume a wide range of responsibilities in the law office as well as other legal environments," she said.

SJCL Paralegal graduates can be found in offices of the County Counsel, City Attorney, 5th District Court of Appeal, as well as in traditional law offices practicing family, transactional, labor and criminal law.

If you are an alumni of SJCL's Paralegal program or know someone who may have attended the program, please contact Pam at the Law School.

We are also pleased to report that 21 former SJCL students are now officially "paralegals." The class that began in March of 1990 celebrated completion of the program on February 15, 1991 with a banquet. In attendance were family, friends and significant others who also received acknowledgement for their support of the students throughout the year.

The class profile includes students ranging in age from 23 to 57 and travelling from Yosemite, Mariposa, Madera, Lemoore, Selma and Visalia. One student relocated to Fresno from Atascadero for the year.

Although some students who originally enrolled in the class dropped out, (who could blame them when they realized reading assignments were measured in inches not pages), those who stuck it out have grown through the year, not only in the academic arena, but personally. Many who completed the program successfully endured serious personal situations and deserve congratulations for their perseverance. ■

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Alumni Survey Yields Encouraging Results

BY STEVEN R. HRDLICKA

In the spring of 1989, many SJCL alumni participated in a survey conducted by the Alumni Association. A questionnaire was developed by a team of students in association with the Valley Business Center, School of Business and Administrative Science, CSUF. The goal was to compile informational data about alumni in an effort to help direct future Alumni Association activities and services.

A substantial level of response at 29% was achieved. This provided a good random sample from which conclusions and recommendations were derived. The highest frequency of respondents were those attorneys having practiced law for 10 to 12 years.

According to those surveyed, the major reason for deciding to study law at SJCL was location. Location was cited by 66%, while 10% referred to the high bar pass rate and 9% cited reputation. The college also received very favorable feedback regarding its academic program. Some 91% felt SJCL had prepared them to pass the bar exam and 92% were satisfied with the overall curriculum.

When asked the question, "What is your current concentration of practice of law?", civil law was significantly the highest field of practice at 27%. The next highest frequencies were personal injury at 19%; criminal law at 18%; family law at 13%; and governmental agencies at 12%. Corporate law received only 7% and only 3% indicated they work for the D.A. or P.D.

As most of you would probably have guessed, there was a clear indication that many alumni are working long hours during the week. Some 85% are working more than 40 hours a week. Of those individuals, 49% are working 41-50 hours weekly and 30% work 51-60 hours weekly. For those people who are trying to earn enough to pay off their latest book acquisition from Matthew Bender, 5% responded that they work between 61 and 70 hours each week. And for those with absolutely

no social life, 1% responded that they work more than 70 hours each week.

It is interesting to note, however, that hard work apparently pays off. The survey clearly indicated that most respondents were in an upper income bracket, with 46% earning \$50,000 or more annually.

Respondents were given seven other categories to choose from and responded as follows:

Up to \$20,000	3%
\$20,001 to \$25,000	1%
\$25,001 to \$30,000	9%
\$30,001 to \$35,000	5%
\$35,001 to \$40,000	12%
\$40,001 to \$45,000	15%
\$45,001 to \$50,000	9%

Despite long hours, this survey also appeared to indicate that many alumni are pursuing activities other than law on week-ends. Nearly 28% do not work on week-ends at all, and 43% work only one to five hours on a regular basis.

Respondents were also asked how they were *best* able to learn about possible positions after graduation. Don't bother send-

*Steven R. Hrdlicka, ('84) is
a board member of the San
Joaquin College of Law
Alumni Association.*

ing our your resume—less than 1% indicated that this method worked for them. Instead, join a fraternity or sorority, get involved with the Alumni, and above all, be nice to dad's business associates that you met at those parties you were forced to attend when you were younger. For those seeking to find a position, 33% obtained a job through business contacts and 23% from other alumni.

Overall, the information supplied was very encouraging. The respondents felt they received a good education at SJCL, they are happy with their jobs and they are successfully earning a good salary by Valley standards. For those of you working over 70 hours a week, take a break.

SJCL Alumni Association President Renee Dawson Logoluso reports an "enthusiastic" response by alumni in donations to the Carolyn Merviss Scholarship Fund. This year's recipient was third-year student Karen V. Ketendjian.

The Alumni Association has also been informed that some students have expressed an interest in participating in a program in

which SJCL students would be allowed to spend a day with a practicing attorney. The purpose of the program would be to allow students to observe a "typical day" of attorneys practicing in the Fresno area.

Alumni and students interested in participating in this "Day in the Life of an Attorney" program should contact Renee or any of the members of the Alumni Board for further information. ■

20 Year Anniversary Events To Start In April

Beginning as early as next month, an interesting variety of 20 Year Anniversary activities have started to take shape. While we have not yet confirmed exact dates for all events, here is a breakdown of what is being planned:

ALUMNI BALL

This is a black tie affair scheduled to be held at the Fresno Metropolitan Museum at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 11. Reservations are being mailed out to all SJCL Alumni in early April. Cost is \$85 per person.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Riverside Golf Course in Fresno will be the site for this event, scheduled for Sunday, April 7. An entrance fee of \$30 will include green fees, a golf cart and food. For more information or to register, call Glenn LoStracco at 488-3141.

SJCL REUNION

This Class Reunion is designed for all SJCL Alumni over the past 20 years. It is scheduled to take place in September of 1991 and will be hosted by the SJCL Alumni Association and the 20 Year Anniversary Committee.

RUN/WALK

The 20 Year Anniversary Run/Walk is tentatively scheduled for one day during the third week of September. The race, which will take place at the Lost Lake Recreation area, will be open to the general public. Entrance fee will be about \$10 and the race will start at 7:00 a.m. For more information, call Bill Frank at 439-5849.

FASHION SHOW

The tentative date for the Fashion Show is September 7. Plans are to hold the event at Roger Rocka's Music Hall starting at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be served and Justice Ardaiz will serve as MC. Cost for the event has not yet been determined. Call Doug Haas at 488-3141 for more details. ■

Life As A Second-Year Law Student

We asked three of our second-year law students to share some of their personal thoughts about whether or not there is life after the first year of law school. We were pleased to learn that there is...

Who was it that said, "Oh, your second year will be so easy?" Surely they did not attend San Joaquin and wrestle with crack babies or future interests. I have vague memories of registering for fall classes, appearing (quaking in my boots) before moot court judges, and taking mid-terms. But those are already fading fast. There is no time to dwell upon past success (or the grim alternative); the time now is for study!

The primary difference between year one and year two is the level of self-confidence.



Barbara Greaver

Knowing that it is possible (evidenced by past performance), and quite probable (criminal law excepting), to learn a sufficient amount of law necessary to pass a law school exam, is heartening to say the

least. In direct contrast however, is the daunting realization that the material learned is the mere tip of an iceberg of knowledge that remains to be learned, throughout a lifetime of studying the law.

Another personal difference this year is that I have become a consummate scheduler and organizer. Certain hours of each day (in fact all of them) are exclusively devoted to my study, my husband, my job or my children.

So in those respects—self confidence and organization—the second year is a big improvement over the first. I remember last year, following my first contracts exam, questioning my commitment to the study of law. These concerns have not entirely disappeared, (I'm thinking now of the first moot court videotape). Rather, my concerns are now limited to the scope of my ability as opposed to my commitment to a profession in law.

Another change for the better is the classroom interaction. Although it did seem that last year our class did not lack for questioning or commenting students, this year the questions are more focused. The students are more willing to take a chance with their analysis of the law. As a result, there are fewer dead silences with the instructor perusing the top of bent heads.

Please see Barbara on page 8

Writing about my experience at SJCL presents a major problem up front: what's the baseline for comparison? Like most of my classmates, I've never attended another law school. I used to watch the old *Paper Chase* series, and of course I absorbed the national mythology of law school as the terrain of the brilliant, the tough and the implacably competitive. But in my experience, such stereotypes as these examples are almost always inaccurate.

Halfway through my first year I read Scott Turow's *One L*, "the turbulent true story of a first year at Harvard Law School," in the words of one of the book's cover blurbs.

But I knew of Turow, an attorney in Chicago, and I had enjoyed his high tension whodunit, *Presumed Innocent*. My real reason for buying *One L* was that I had been thinking about some way to reflect on my experience as a law student. Coming across this book when I did was pure luck.

Written in the form of a diary, Turow's story was so engrossing that I read it in one sitting. It was filled with suspense and discovery, with well-drawn characters, like a Contracts professor who speaks in "a tone of barely veiled menace" (who turns out to be one of the good guys after all). And it was full of quips—"Torts is the course that proves your mother was right."

But I was most struck by something else. It was that Turow could have written practically the same book if he had been at SJCL. I found that what Turow had gone through was what I was going through, what every-



Thomas Zynda

one in my study group and what every other SJCL first year student was going through.

The confusion, the feeling of being overwhelmed by far too much to learn and the mountain of definitions, charts and axioms of law to memorize; the struggle with court holdings that were eminently logical law but that seemed to violate common sense; the moments (all too rare) when the light bulb went on and some puzzling legal concept finally became clear; the stress and anxiety, the conflict between

Please see Thomas on page 6

When I sat down to write this article describing my life as a second year law student, one of the first things that came to mind, obviously, was the immense relief of knowing that I did manage to survive that first year.

Although the first year was a trying year filled with plenty of challenges, I found that Yes, it was do-able—once I determined, from a personal standpoint, exactly what I must do to meet the challenge.

As are many of the students at SJCL, I am a second or third career student. The skills I have developed as a legal secretary and a production controller in a fast-paced manufacturing environment have been invaluable in charting a course through this maze called law school.

As everyone who is currently involved in this process well knows, it takes a great deal of planning and juggling to hold down a job, attend law school, raise a family and/or maintain a relationship; and spend evenings, weekends and holidays preparing for assignments and the dreaded EXAMS!

Family and friends will often say "I just don't know how you do it." Yet I often see students who are consistently well prepared, who obviously have spent a great deal of time poring over the reading assignments. And I wonder how they do it.



Marina Sorlie

I am fortunate to count on the friendship of two individuals who have each spent HOURS with me on the telephone and in person in the final weeks before exams—going over hypothetical questions, charts, outlines, etc. In this regard, classmates Dorothy Corless and Victor Salazar have shared their valuable time and made my way a bit smoother.

My personal experience has been that a support group is essential to success. By this I don't mean simply a study group, but I refer also to family and friends who offer support and words of encouragement along the way. It meant a great deal to me last November when a friend called at 6:00 a.m. on the morning of Moot Court competition to offer enthusiastic support. To those first -

Please see Marina on page 8

Externships Providing a 'Practical' Experience

SJCL students are quickly learning that an "externship" can provide useful insight into the practical application of the concepts and skills addressed in law school.

It's all part of SJCL's own externship program, launched this year, which places students with various local legal agencies.

A student applies for an externship through SJCL prior to the beginning of a semester. Once accepted, the student will work approximately ten hours per week during the semester and is given responsibilities that are as nearly as practicable as those which a new lawyer would perform.

The externship begins with an orientation program. Thereafter, the program varies with each agency, but in most of the placements includes substantial in-court experience, arguing motions, participating in plea negotiations and even trying short cases.

In addition, the externs meet as a group several times during the semester under the coordination of a faculty member (this year, Professor Paul Herbert) to share and learn from their own experiences. And finally, written work generated during the externship is submitted for faculty review and critique.

The participating agencies for 1990-91 are the District Attorney's and Public Defender's Offices of Fresno, Madera and Tulare Counties, the U.S. Attorney and Federal Defender in Fresno and the Central California Legal Services Corporation Office. Starting this summer, the newly-opened Fresno branch of the State Attorney General will be added to the list. Next year, it is anticipated that judicial placements may be included.

Upon completion of the course, which is graded on a pass/not pass basis, the student receives two units of credit.

Several students have participated this year: Katie Roberts, who argued a motion in a death penalty case while working for the Fresno Public Defender in the Fall and Terry Hillblom, who was placed with the Federal Defender's Office in downtown Fresno. This semester Carol Moses was placed with the U.S. Attorney, Stanley Suski with the Fresno Public Defender, Mike Reid with the Tulare District Attorney, Crystal Sullivan with the Tulare County Counsel and Jayne Mascorro with the Fresno Legal Services Office.

Students who are interested in participating on the SJCL externship program are encouraged to contact Professor Herbert. ■

California's Newest Member Of The Bar



Barbara Allison, a graduate of SJCL's most recent class ('90), is pictured here being sworn in as a member of the California State Bar by the Hon. James I. Aaron. Due to an oversight when filling out her bar application, Barbara was unable to attend the swearing-in ceremonies in December. Judge Aaron, a member of the very first SJCL graduating class ('74) and a long-time friend of her family, accepted a request to personally administer the oath, which took place at Barbara's home in January.

Thomas

Continued from page 5

school and personal life—it was all there in Turow's book as in our own lives.

I was to find later that the first year was only boot camp. As a second year student at last, I was in Moot Court. We were assigned to do a brief for a case involving crack babies, a controversial issue on which the law is contradictory, and the issue itself laden with emotions that could send your argument astray at any point. And it involved critical questions of criminal and constitutional law. The only problem was that I didn't know anything about either one, nor did any but a handful of the other students in Moot Court. Researching the law for the case, even simply deciding what the issues were, became a test of who among the blind could figure out what the elephant looked like.

We progressed, but slowly. There were some gloomy, murky days. On some days it seemed only realistic to conclude that there was *no way* to answer the questions the case raised. We would *never* find our way through the maze and, consequently, we would never

meet the deadline for submitting the brief.

But we did—and then we nearly didn't. With five hours to go before the deadline, my partner and I made the last revisions to iron out some grammatical and stylistic wrinkles. We set the computer to print out the finalized copy, and sat back with some relief.

Then Murphy's Law struck. The computer printed out the first three pages. And then the first three pages again. And again. And again. No matter what we tried, we couldn't get it to print the rest of the brief.

We felt marooned in space. We had labored for months. We had analyzed and reanalyzed the facts of the case, we had researched constitutional and criminal law, we had defined the issues and researched the case law and written and repeatedly rewritten the brief. It was complete and ready, but it was invisible. And there was nothing we could do about it. We may as well have not done any of the work at all.

But luckily, even Murphy's Law is subject to Murphy's Law. My partner tapped the keyboard—we still don't know exactly which key—and page four miraculously began printing, and then page five, then six, and so on until the end.

Please see Thomas on page 7

Philanthropy And The SJCL Experience

BY SARA B. COBB
Dean, *Institutional Advancement*

In 1829, a decision by the United States Supreme Court allowed giving by individuals to charities to be an accepted practice. In the early 1900s, tax reform gave relief to those who gave to charities. Today we see unique philanthropy, including record setting levels of charitable contributions in America — \$114.7 billion in 1989.



Philanthropy can take many forms. For our troops in the Middle East, it takes the form of Christmas and Valentine cards received from people they don't even know. For a sick child in the hospital, it takes the form of a vital organ or blood donation.

Philanthropy can take many forms within even one institution. At San Joaquin College of Law, we see generous acts of philanthropy every day. This philanthropy comes in the form of time: hours given to teaching in return for a small stipend; thoughts and considerations given during a meeting to determine the new location of our law school; creativity in generating exciting plans for our 20th Anniversary celebration.

This philanthropy also comes in the form of in-kind gifts: an entire set of California Codes donated by someone who had heard of but had never been to the law school; an instructor waiving his stipend for instructing; a fax machine donated to SJCL because of the staff's hard work in coordinating a continuing legal education seminar.

The most common form of philanthropy is a cash contribution, and we have seen a renewed generosity this year. Special credit for this renewal goes to the members of the Executive Committee of the Annual Fund. They are: Michael Goldring, Dan Harralson, Ima Jean Harvey, Jim Petrucelli, Mac Stewart and Chuck Wieland. Their interest, dedication and enthusiasm has been instrumental in raising both new and increased gifts.

Enthusiasm has also been generated by the 20th Anniversary celebration of SJCL. An alumni ball, run/walk/breakfast, fashion show, horse show/barbecue and golf tournament are in the planning stage. We

are seeing interest and involvement by our alumni like never before. There are three reasons for this involvement.

First, SJCL's product is outstanding. Its graduates in the law, tax and paralegal programs are now employed by most of the larger law firms, and many graduates have branched out on their own to start firms. With more than 20% of practicing attorneys in the Fresno area holding SJCL degrees, we have become not just a presence but a force in the legal community.

Second, through our candidacy by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, we have access to many sources of financial aid for our students. This financial aid enables students who might not be able to go to law school with an opportunity to pursue their dream. Enrollment numbers continue to show dramatic increases over just two years ago.

And third, there is a distinct need for sound legal education in the Central Valley, as demonstrated by employer interest in our program. Several of our students have permanent employment lined up in their second and third years.

These and many other reasons give alumni a sense of pride in their institution. Their school is making great strides, impacting the legal community in a positive way, becoming a force, and not just a presence. Congratulations to the alumni on that sense of pride. ■

Thomas

Continued from page 6

When it was all over, I was amazed at the level of stress all of us in Moot Court had handled and the sheer amount of labor we had performed. We had earned a motto something like that of the Navy Seabees—“The difficult we do immediately; the impossible takes a little longer.”

“Researching the law for the case became a test of who among the blind could figure out what the elephant looked like.”

The second year brought another major development as well. I began working as a law clerk. In this I found that knowing the law in theory was barely the beginning—you came face-to-face with its human meaning, the meaning of legally understanding the predicaments clients are in and figuring out how to generate the legal research that will help the attorney help them.

Getting over the hurdles of law school has been rewarding, and one of the rewards is that you learn that part of “learning to think like a lawyer” means learning to deal with problematic puzzles. The routine is Moot Court. Each case I research is a new problem—the case holdings are unclear, or contradictory, and there are good arguments on both sides. And Murphy's Law never serves notice on you. ■

SJCL Awarded Irvine Foundation Grant

Last year, The James Irvine Foundation of San Francisco and Newport Beach awarded San Joaquin College of Law a generous grant of \$40,000.

During the 1990-91 academic year, the grant will defray the expense of a cluster of projects aimed at enhancing SJCL's academic program and institutional stature.

The grant enables SJCL to thoroughly review its curriculum structure, content and staffing in light of the College's history and mission. This review also takes into account current thought among legal educators across the nation on these issues. The goals of the grant are twofold:

- To ensure that SJCL's academic and extracurricular programs remain stimulating and of high quality.

- To create a system for ensuring that institutional self-examination be made on an annual basis and that it be given high priority.

Specifically, SJCL hopes to expand elective offerings, develop a more integrated approach to the teaching of ethics and enlarge practical and clinical opportunities.

The project will culminate in a range of initiatives (some already underway) that will build on the base that already exists at SJCL and help position the college for continued progress.

The James Irvine Foundation is a private charitable foundation dedicated to the promotion of the general welfare of the people of California. The Foundation has provided support to a number of Central San Joaquin Valley organizations. ■

News Briefs

MCLE UPDATE

Beginning in February, 1992, all active members of the California State Bar, with limited exceptions, will be required to complete a minimum of 36 hours of Continuing Legal Education activities every 36 months. Lawyers may start earning credit on September 1, 1991.

With these dates rapidly approaching, SJCL is working to insure that a substantial number and variety of MCLE courses will be available in the greater Fresno area. In cooperation with the Fresno County Bar Association, a survey was mailed out recently to approximately 1,500 attorneys in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The results of the survey will allow us to more effectively determine which course topics are of high priority and interest to attorneys. If you have not done so already, please return your survey to SJCL.

We plan to start offering courses as early as this Spring. More details will follow shortly.

SEND US CLIPPINGS

Last month, we mailed out the first volume of "SJCL In The News," a compilation of newspaper articles about SJCL people and events throughout 1989 and 1990. We try to continue to keep an eye out for articles appearing in the papers that mention either the Law School or people associated with SJCL. Unfortunately, we can't read every newspaper in the San Joaquin Valley. Please help us by sending in any articles that you may notice in your own Valley papers. We will make sure to include them in the next issue of "SJCL In The News."

KEEP US POSTED

If you have relocated, please let us know so we can keep our mailing list current. We also want to hear about any other news you would like included in *Inter Alia*. And we encourage you to submit any articles or ideas that you think our readers would be interested in. Remember to send all correspondence to the attention of Bill Eryasian, Director of Institutional Relations.

WELCOME TO OUR STAFF

SJCL is pleased to announce that Denise Gould, Financial Aid Administrator, joined our staff last December, replacing Kristi Reed, who accepted a position with the CSUF office of financial aid. Denise directs the day-to-day operation of the Student Financial Aid office of the college, which includes disseminating information and application materials on financial aid programs, interviewing and

advising students on financial aid matters, reviewing applications for aid and working with state/federal funding agencies. Please join us in welcoming Denise to the staff.

PARALEGAL ALUMNI GROUP FORMED

The ad hoc committee for the formation of the SJCL Paralegal Alumni Association (PAA) met for the first time in early February. The meeting was called by alumni and current paralegal students who believe that SJCL paralegal alumni should acknowledge their presence in the legal community and assume a more responsible role in the Valley. The general consensus of those attending was that the primary goal of the PAA should be to promote awareness of paralegals as professionals in the academic and legal communities.

Meetings will be held on a monthly basis. Anyone interested in participating on the committee should contact Diane Meade at 251-0145. Lynda Williams is coordinating alumni outreach efforts and hopes to have a comprehensive list in 6 to 8 weeks. If you have updated address, telephone or employment information, or know where alumni can be reached, contact Lynda at 298-7118. ■

Barbara

Continued from page 5

Finally, my husband and I both agree that there are not enough words to describe the time and energy the law student's family expends during the law school years. I cannot emphasize enough the necessity of having a caring and helpful support group, whether they are family or friends. Looking forward to year three! ■

Marina

Continued from page 5

year students who are now eagerly awaiting the Moot Court experience, I offer these words of encouragement: the real thing is a cake walk once you've made it past Professor Schmidt's "practice" rounds.

I must also specifically acknowledge the support I have received from my immediate family: the support of my mother and sister is a constant source of positive reinforcement. My strongest base of support has come from two wonderful daughters, who, at this point, are raising me! These wonderful young adults make daily sacrifices with unselfish determination so that Mom can finish law school. How do THEY do it? ■



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