

Summer 2002

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SJCL Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

Judy Wiseman inspired SJCL students

The hallways of San Joaquin College of Law seem much emptier since Wednesday, June 12, 2002, when third year law student Judy Wiseman lost her heroic battle with melanoma.

By **Roland Soltesz**, SBA President

Never one to let her sickness bother her, Judy never quit or gave in to her disease. During her first year in the Juris Doctorate program at San Joaquin College of Law, Judy fell ill during midterms. Despite having a brain tumor that required surgery, Judy took her midterms with the rest of her class. In fact, she took one midterm then traveled to Los Angeles for treatment, only to return the very next day and take her remaining midterms with her class as scheduled. She not only successfully passed her midterms, but she also had some of the highest grades in the class. At the end of her first year she was invited to participate as a Law Review candidate.

The second year of school for Judy was similar to her first; she had a recurrence of her cancer in the first semester. This time her tumors required a more invasive procedure.



Undeterred, Judy still made it back for midterms. Despite not having full use of her right hand, Judy took all of her exams on time with the rest of the class. She never asked for special treatment; in fact, several faculty members pleaded with her to take extra time on her exams, but she always refused. Judy felt that part of becoming a lawyer was being able to handle adversity and work under pressure, and she set a great example for her classmates.

Despite her illness, Judy completed her law review article and was offered a Law Review board position. During finals of her second year Judy started feeling ill again. She took her finals and traveled once again to Los Angeles for treatment. Unfortunately for Judy, her family, and friends, this trip was her last. Her doctors discovered the melanoma, that was in remission, had returned in full force. Judy passed away less than a month later.

Judy never quit or gave up; she was always prepared for class, had a smile on her face and a keen sense of humor. Despite all of her medical problems, Judy was a model student. Judy was also a wife and mother of twin boys. Her sons were only one year old when she started law school. Judy handled the additional pressure of taking care of her children with ease. Anyone that knew Judy would tell you what a wonderful wife and mother she was and how much she loved her husband, Mark, and sons Kevin and Eric. Judy was able to balance all facets of her life successfully. It is incredible to think of everything that she was able to ac-

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The Student Bar Association has renamed their annual scholarship the Judy Wiseman Memorial Scholarship and an endowment fund has been established. All contributions would be greatly appreciated. Please send your contribution care of SJCL Student Bar Association to benefit the Judy Wiseman Memorial Scholarship.

Congratulations to the Class of 2002

On June 1, 2002 San Joaquin College of Law celebrated its Twenty-Ninth Graduation at the William Saroyan Theater in Fresno.

SJCL was honored to have Honorable Anthony W. Ishii, U.S. District Court Fresno, as commencement speaker. Trisha Lynn Beckstead delivered the Valedictorian address.

The students graduating at the top of their class with distinction were:

Trisha Lynn Beckstead
Erin Maureen Rhames
Kenneth John Jorgensen
Tamara Pulos Smith
Steven Michael Koch

Congratulations also go out to **Kari-ann J. Arndt**
Joseph Michael Arnold
Regina Ann Bradshaw
Rosalinda Bravo
Erica Mercado Camarena
Phillip Jarrett Cline
Efren Diaz-Munoz
David Anthony DiChiara
Michelle Lynn Jorgensen
Shant N. Kataroyan
Charles Andrews Leath
Mary Frances Lerner

Kimberly Collette Madayag
Abel C. Martinez
Vongsavanh Mouanoutoua
Gregory Jon Norys
Cadee Ann Ohanesian
Tres Andrew Porter
Faith Helen Potter
Darin Laine Powell
Trina Louise Root
Cynthia J. Secula
Travis Ray Stokes
Laura Kyle Walls
Lillian Macias Weiland.

Graduation photos page 4

Reunion

Thanks to SJCL's alumni who filled out the survey postcard and returned it. Based on the responses we received we have decided to have an:

All Class Reunion Wine & Cheese Event

Friday, September 20, 2002
5:30-8:00PM

At this event SJCL will be honoring all the valedictorians in its history with commemorative medals engraved with the SJCL seal on the front and their names and graduation class on the back.

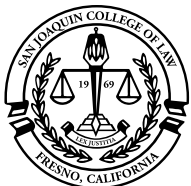
Formal Invitation will follow

If you plan to attend, please
R.S.V.P. 559/323-2100

2002 Class Gift



The students of San Joaquin College of Law will no longer get soaked waiting outside the East facing entry doors or be blinded by the sun through the West facing doors. The Class of 2002 gave two teal awnings for the SJCL's East entry doors and darkened screens for the West entry windows. Both the awnings and the screens are meant to blend with SJCL's beautiful facility.



Board of Trustees

Douglas Noll, J.D., *Chair*; Hon. James A. Ardaiz, *Vice-Chair*; John Loomis, J.D., *Treasurer*

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Alumni Profiles

The year 2002 is the Twentieth Anniversary of the graduation of the Class of 1982 and the Tenth Anniversary of the Class of 1992. Throughout the year, we will be letting you know “where they are now.”

1982 Julia Brungess

Upon graduating from law school, Julia worked for two years with Chuck Soley and an additional three years with Joe Uremovic. In 1987, she opened her own practice specializing in family law and juvenile dependency matters. She became a certified family law specialist in 1993.

Julia served on the Fresno County Bar Association board for three years and was the Chair of the Family Law Section. She was active on the State Bar Conference of Delegates for five years.

Julia sat on the board of the Marjaree Mason Center for six years, as well, three of them as Board President. In 1997, Julia marshaled an admirable but unsuccessful bid for a seat on the Madera County Board of Supervisors.

Julia is married to another SJCL alumnus, Robert G. Williams (class of 1975); they just celebrated their 14th anniversary. Robert's son, Ryan, whom Julia very much considers her son too, is completing his Ph.D. in environmental toxicology at the University of California at Riverside. In her spare time, Julia golfs, cycles, and runs.

Julia remembers her class as a very supportive one. Most were working full-time and were friendly and non-competitive. Julia was Secretary of the Student Bar Association and involved in SJCL's move from the Fresno Pacific campus to the Shields building. She remembers a lot of hard work and surviving a bout with valley fever. Julia says it was the first time she really put her heart and soul into studying. It sure seems like it paid off!!!

Pauline Getz

“Live, Work & Play in Poway”. That's the motto of the Clovis-like town near San Diego where Pauline Getz has lived for the last eleven years. Pauline is a force in the area. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Poway Business Park Association, the San Diego Chamber Orchestra, and Episcopal Community Services. She served for 9 years on the board of the Corporate Financial Council of San Diego and was in Washington, D.C. staying at a hotel near the Pentagon with Women in Business on September 11, 2001.

Pauline (“Polly” to her friends) came to Fresno from San Antonio, Texas, fresh out of college with a degree in French and minors in Italian and Spanish, and, she says, no marketable skills. She went to work at Kimble, MacMichael & Upton as a receptionist. Don Jackson of that firm eventually persuaded her to go to law school. Upon graduation, Polly remained as

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Congratulations Bar Passers!

San Joaquin College of Law wishes to congratulate the following graduates on passing the February 2002 California State Bar Examination which is considered to be the most difficult in the country.



(L-R) **Steve Alfieris, Jamie Butterworth, Nancy Levan, Ian Marty, and Denise Zuniga.**

Full-Time Faculty

Lawrence M. Artenian, Richard M. Cartier, Denise M. Kerner, Kathryn McTigue-Floyd, Janice L. Pearson, Sally A. Perring, Jeffrey G. Purvis

Adjunct Faculty

Marc C. Ament, Hon. James A. Ardaiz, Jesse J. Avila, Barry J. Bennett, Salvador M. Blanco, Stanley A. Boone, David M. Camenson, Lloyd Carter, Catherine J. Cerna, Hilary Chittick, Jonathan Conklin, John P. Eleazarian, Christine Goodrich, Hon. Michael Haubner, Sara Hedgpeth-Harris, Kathi Kesselman, Michael P. Mallery, William T. McLaughlin II, Mark D. Miller, Hon. Lawrence J. O'Neill, Douglas E. Noll, Deborah Davis Owdom, Rosendo Pena, Jr., Neal Pereira, Russell K. Ryan, Rose Safarian, Rene Turner Sample, Sarah A. Schmidt, Michael Seng, Hon. Mark Snauffer, David J. Weiland, E. Robert Wright

Congratulations to the Class of 2002



Friend **Caroline Creamer** and grandson **Nicholas** congratulate **Faith Potter**



Trina Root with her mother **Judy Gibson**



Kariann Arndt with her husband **Scott**



Phillip Cline and **Steve Koch**



Tamara Smith with best friend **Jodie Bruno**



Travis Stokes with wife **Lori**



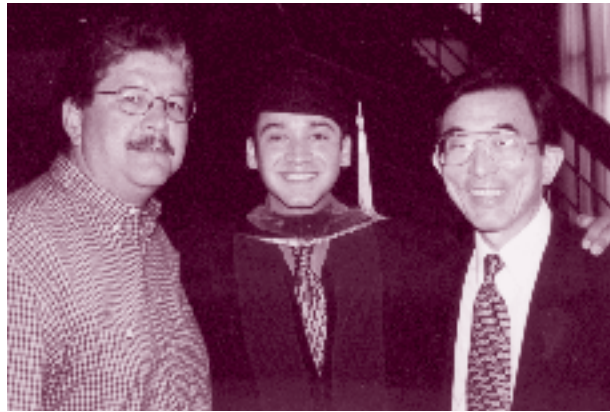
Lillian Macias-Weiland and **Chineme Anyadiegwu** (Law '03)



Mary Lerner, **Kenneth Jorgensen**, and **Michelle Jorgensen**



Vongsavanh Mouanoutoua and his father **Mouage**



Attorney **Robert Cervantes**, **Efren Diaz-Munoz**, and Judge **Anthony Ishii** who gave the commencement address



Shant Kataroyan and **Cadee Ohanesian**



Valedictorian **Trisha Beckstead** with her sister **Melissa Kochergen**



Joe Arnold with wife **Kerry Ann**



Erica Camerena



Erin Rhames with her niece **Brenna**



Cynthia Secula with her father **Bill Rous**

an associate, spending a total of 12 years with the firm.

During those 12 years, she met the boy next door, Ron Enos, a store manager for Payless, and married him. When Ron was transferred to San Diego in 1987, Polly joined the firm of Ferris & Britton there. In 1996, Polly decided she'd had enough of freeway commutes and wanted to test her own theories about business development for law firms. On April Fool's day of 1996, she opened her own office. Ten months later her clientele had doubled, confirming her theories about how to build a practice. In 1998, the firm became Getz and Crosby. In June 2002, Polly struck off again on her own, opening Getz and Associates. Her practice has always emphasized transactional matters and corporate and securities law.

In their free time, Polly and Ron like to travel and play golf or just "chill and read". They live on 1 and 1/4 acres surrounded by a fruit orchard - a wonderful, peaceful contrast from freeways and the practice of law. Polly is also very active in the Episcopal Church, locally and nationally, serving as its national Parliamentarian.

Polly's law school experience started at SJCL's original site on the Fresno Pacific University campus. She remembers enviously watching Judge Caeton smoke in class and the time he ripped the thermostat cover box from the wall because the blasted air conditioner never worked right. She remembers the class making a real and successful effort to create a community amongst themselves - a hard thing to do when the school had no real campus of its own and most students were working and commuting.

Doug Haas

Doug joined the Fresno County District Attorney's Office upon completion of law school. He first handled an assignment at juvenile hall and then moved to the misdemeanor team. After that he prosecuted justice court cases and the felony trials. His next stop was with the Sexual Assault team. In 1989 Doug was promoted to Senior Deputy District Attorney and was assigned to supervise the Juvenile Prosecution and 300 Unit for a year. Following that he was assigned to the Major Narcotics Prosecution Unit and supervised four other team members as well as carrying his own caseload. In July of 1998 Doug was re-assigned to supervise the Gang Prosecution Unit that was part of the Multi-Agency Gang Enforcement Consortium (MAG-EC). From January to July of 2000, Doug co-prosecuted the Mongolian Boys Society Asian gang rape trial in Judge Gomes' department, along with Houry Alanjian (Class of 1987). Of the 14 defense lawyers and two prosecutors on the case, 12 were SJCL graduates. Doug was recently re-assigned to supervise the narcotics and rural crime teams.

Doug is married to Marci who teaches first grade. Their son, Joshua, graduated from Buchanan High School where he was active on the yearbook staff. Their daughter, Abigail, just finished her freshman year at Clovis High School, playing tennis, soccer, and serving as Treasurer of the freshman class. She was elected president of the sophomore class. The entire family is active at University Presbyterian Church. They just spent a week with Amor Ministries in Tijuana building a house for an 11-person family. They also like to snow ski and backpack. Last summer Doug completed a one-week High Sierra trek from Granite Creek to Yosemite Valley.

Doug says he tries not to remember law school but he does remember his classmates. He has his class picture hanging on the wall of his office. Since he was working as a probation officer while going to school he remembers being constantly busy. His time together with Marci consisted of doing laundry at the laundromat and grocery shopping.

Janine Reagan

Upon graduation from law school and passing the bar, Janine immediately opened her own law practice specializing in family law. Over the years, she has served on the Board of the Fresno County Bar Association and as President of Fresno County Women Lawyers.

Janine took two long sabbaticals from law practice to travel. In 1992, she and her husband, Jim Walsh, spent a year backpacking through Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and parts of Europe. In 1999, they spent three months backpacking in Central America and two months in the Balkans, including Kosovo. They next plan to be in Greece for the Olympics in 2004.

Jim teaches Sociology at Fresno City College. Janine's daughter is a CPA in Iowa. When not traveling huge distances, Janine and Jim love camping (Big Sur is a favorite.) and spending time at their cabin on the Russian River.

What does she remember about law school? "JUDGE CAETON! He scared the heck out of me!" And she remembers the people, most of whom are still in touch with one another. Now they are successful and have kids of their own!

Staff

Janice L. Pearson, Dean; **Sally A. Perring**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; **Tom Chacon**, Accounting Assistant; **Ken Coyle**, M.I.S. Director;

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1992 Mike Carrigan

Throughout the Paralegal Program and law school at SJCL, Mike clerked for Myers & Overstreet (now Myers & Mayfield). Upon graduation, he joined the firm as an associate. His practice was general for the first year and a half, then he began specializing in research, law and motion, and appellate practice. Mike has briefed and argued several cases in the Court of Appeal, and argued the case of *Randi W. v. Muroc Joint Unified School District* before the California Supreme Court on Election Day 1996. In August of 2000, Mike opened his own practice and has kept quite busy doing research and appellate work on a contract basis.

Mike married Gwen, a graduate of SJCL's Paralegal Program, in 1990 while Mike was attending law school. Gwen works with Jory, Peterson, Watkins and Smith. Mike and Gwen have a son, Andy, who was born in 1993. They are active in Andy's school activities. Mike is also active in the Masons.

Mike remembers his study group—Mike, Maureen Holford, Crystal Sullivan, and Susan Hall. They hung out at Maureen's house arguing about cases and drinking beer for hours.

Alfred Gallegos

Alfred clerked for Jacob Weisberg while in law school, then became an associate with his firm for two years after graduating and passing the bar exam. For the next 1 ½ years, Alfred practiced in partnership with classmate, Ruben Moreno. Alfred then served for two years as the Managing Attorney of the Fresno office of Central California Legal Services. Two years ago, Alfred joined the firm of Cooper & Hoppe, doing principally insurance defense work.

Alfred has three daughters whom he absolutely adores - Alicia (16), Lauren (7), and Elizabeth (4). He spends most of his free time hanging out with them, his extended family, and his girlfriend, Jayne Mascorro. He also

squeezes in a little fishing when he can find the time.

Alfred's most vivid memory of law school is the incredible time pressure at the outset. As a result of that stress, he feels members of his class developed an intense camaraderie.

Robert Lindsay

Bob's ten years since graduation from law school have been spent as a research attorney at the Fifth District Court of Appeal. Bob had been an extern for Justice Stone while in law school. As a permanent attorney for the Court, Bob worked first with Justice Best, then Justice Martin, and now, as a Senior Attorney, with Justice Buckley.

M. Jacqueline Yates

Jackie joined Stammer, McKnight, Barnum & Bailey upon graduation, becoming a partner three years ago. Her practice consists of insurance defense and medical malpractice defense for the Community Medical Centers, along with some domestic and employment law work. She also handles conservatorships and special needs trusts for Central Valley Regional Center's disabled clients.

Jackie's husband, Dan, is a contractor. They have one son, Carsen, who is seven years old. Jackie also has a step-

daughter, Molly, who recently completed her bachelor's degree at Fresno State and is substitute teaching in the Fresno Unified School District. Dan has a pilot's license and periodically, flies medical personnel to Mexico to deliver free medical care. Jackie is on the Board of Directors for United Cerebral Palsy and serves as the co-chair for their annual Star Fantasy Ball.

Jackie is still into sewing, making about 50% of her suits. Her dining room long since ceased serving that function and is now lined with cabinets full of fabric. Her sewing machine interfaces with a computer, giving her the capability to do all kinds of crazy things.

Jackie remembers Judge Ardaiz giving Scott VanWagenen the nickname "Surfer Boy" because of his blond hair and athletic build. Two years after she graduated Jackie learned that Scott and others had given her the nickname "Prom Queen" because of some outfit she wore to class one night. Jackie also remembers many after class meetings at the class hangout, The Acapulco—especially during their graduating year. She feels being part of a small class, rather than the several hundred that might graduate from a huge institution, made the law school process less overwhelming.

Wiseman from page 1

comply with all the pressures that she faced.

The students, staff, faculty, and alumni all should be proud that we had a student like Judy among us. Although Judy has passed away, for those of us who knew her she will always be with us. When we take tests, graduate and take the bar exam, Judy's memory and spirit will live on. It is the duty of all of us who knew her to keep her memory alive.

If there is any sense to be made at all from Judy's early death at the age of 32, it is the lesson that despite all the odds, every single one of us has the ability to perform at levels we never thought possible. Judy should be a model for each and every one of us, reminding us never to quit and to live each day with no regrets. When faced with a difficult task, just remember what Judy was able to do, and then do not let anything stop you - no matter the odds.

SJCL student visits DC

SJCL student Judy Rogers was chosen to participate in President Bush's roundtable discussion and attend his annual dinner in Washington D.C. as one of 190 participants from across the nation. Judy received a special briefing from

Senators feedback on their policies from the perspective of an ordinary citizen.

At one small group discussion in which Judy participated, Mrs. Lynne Cheney talked about the importance of emphasizing history in education. Following that lecture, Judy was invited to a dinner hosted by Mrs. Cheney at the National Museum of Woman in the Arts.

The weekend ended with the President's black tie dinner, which was attended by 6,000 people and included entertainment by Amy Grant and Vince Gill.

Judy was especially grateful to Congressman Radanovich, who graciously met with her and provided a secure place for her to take a Professional Responsibility exam.



Judy Rogers (Law '04) with Congressman **George Radanovich**

over a dozen Senators on national security, the Middle East conflict, the U.S. economy, budget negotiations, Social Security, and Medicare. She was encouraged to exchange ideas and give

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Bookstore

The Bookstore also has a complete listing of the books it carries on SJCL's website at www.sjcl.edu/bookstore.html

We want updates

We want to know what you are doing. Include your current address, family information, recent accomplishments, and any other information or photos you would like to provide. Then send us your information by fax: (559) 323-5566, email: menns@sjcl.edu, or mail: Mark Enns, SJCL, 901 5th Street, Clovis, California 93612.

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