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# SJCL Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

Volume XVIII, Number 1

## Elizabeth O'Neill receives honorary degree

*On January 25, 2007, San Joaquin College of Law awarded Mrs. Elizabeth O'Neill, Esq. an honorary juris doctorate degree in recognition of her many years of service on the Board of Trustees of the law school.*

Mrs. O'Neill served on the Board for fourteen years, helping to shepherd the law school through Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) candidacy, WASC accreditation, the move to the Clovis campus, and the plans for the law school's future. She served loyally on the Executive and

Personnel Committees and provided much appreciated common sense advice to Dean Pearson.

Mrs. O'Neill graduated from Fresno High School in 1936. She was the first female Student Body President at Fresno High and was selected as the Outstanding High School Student in

California by the California Student Federation in 1936. After receiving her baccalaureate degree in History from Fresno State University, Mrs. O'Neill entered the University of California, Boalt School of Law, in 1940. She was one of a handful of women law students in her class.

Mrs. O'Neill's legal education was interrupted by World War II. She remembers that most of the male students and much of the faculty were drafted. A further interruption was raising five children. Finally, in 1969, she completed her degree and went to work for the Alameda County Probation Department, first running its Girls' Home and then as the director-founder of the Alameda County Family Court Services. In approximately 1982, she opened her own practice handling principally child custody cases and working 80 – 85 hours a week.

Since her retirement in 1990, Mrs. O'Neill helped found Fresno's CASA. She has served on the Child Abuse Prevention Council and, of course, on SJCL's Board. SJCL will be forever grateful for her support and service.



Dean **Janice Pearson** presents **Elizabeth O'Neill** with an honorary degree from SJCL

## Congratulations Judge O'Neill

On February 2, 2007, the Honorable Lawrence J. O'Neill was sworn in as the newest Judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. Judge O'Neill received a Baccalaureate Degree in Criminology from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1973. He attained a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Golden Gate University in 1976. He received his Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of California, Hastings School of Law in 1979.

Upon graduation from law school, Judge O'Neill joined the Fresno firm of McCormick, Barstow, Sheppard, Wayte and Carruth. In February of 1990, he was appointed to the Fresno County Superior Court. In January of 1999 he was chosen as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Judge O'Neill taught Civil Trial Practice at San Joaquin College of Law for five years from 1987 through 1990. He also taught Juvenile Courts in 1997. Judge O'Neill was a popular and effective professor. SJCL students appreciated his ethical approach to the practice of law, his ability to communicate clearly, and his ability to offer criticism in a constructive manner. He made students feel good about choosing law as a career.

The entire SJCL community wishes Judge O'Neill well in this new chapter in his life.

## HSJCL ALUMNI HALL of FAME

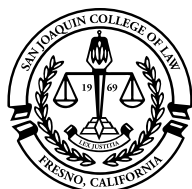
One of the goals of the Student Bar Association is to recognize alumni of San Joaquin College of Law. SJCL's alumni have made significant contributions to the community, the field in which they practice, and to the school. Working with the Alumni Association and school administration, the idea of creating an Alumni Hall of Fame evolved. Over the past several months we have been creating procedures for the nomination process and criteria for the nomination of candidates. The Student Bar Association is honored to be able to present the First Annual San Joaquin College of Law Hall of Fame inductees at this year's Barrister's Ball on March 23, 2007.

## Making of Modern Law

SJCL's Law Library has just purchased the online resource The Making of Modern Law. The Making of Modern Law is a fully searchable database of approximately 10 million pages and more than 21,000 works from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries on British Commonwealth and American law. The works, derived primarily from the special collections at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and York University in Toronto, cover every aspect of law and encompass a range of analytical, theoretical, and practical literature, with many being quite rare and

generally unavailable. Included are classic treatises, casebooks, local practice manuals, form books, works for lay readers, pamphlets, letters, speeches, and others.

The content is divided into 99 separate areas, allowing researchers to focus their search on keywords or phrases, full text, author, title, date, subject, source library, and more. The records can also be navigated by entering a specific page number or by using a list on the side of the screen to navigate between pages with matches for a specific search term.



### Board of Trustees

Professor Larry Artenian, J.D., Ross Borba, Jr., Richard Caglia, J.D., Hon. Jane Cardoza, Courtney Caron, *SBA President*, Deborah Ann Coe, J.D., Carol Smittcamp Copeland, Greg Durbin, J.D., Edward D. Fanucchi, J.D., Traci Fritzier, J.D., Christina Jelladian, *Alumni Representative*, Jan L. Kahn, J.D., John Loomis, J.D., Douglas Noll, J.D., *Chair*, Hon. Robert Oliver, Susie Osterberg, Wanda L. Rogers, Dennis Veeh, CPA, Richard Watters, J.D., David Weiland, J.D.

## Bertha & John Garabedian Foundation library gift

The Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation recently granted \$5,000 to San Joaquin College of Law. This generous gift has enabled SJCL to purchase access to Ebrary. Ebrary provides online access to thousands of legal, social science, and history volumes. Because SJCL is not located immediately adjacent to a major academic library, ABA standards require SJCL to provide access to materials of this kind through some media. This purchase is an important addition to SJCL's library. We are grateful to the Garabedian Foundation for making this possible.

## Rick Watters California Trial Attorney of the Year

Board of Trustees member, Richard C. Watters, has been named the 2006 California Trial Lawyer of the Year by the California State Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (CAL-ABOTA). Mr. Watters designated San Joaquin College of Law to be the recipient of a \$5,000 CAL-ABOTA gift to enhance the education of SJCL students. We at San Joaquin College of Law are proud of the accomplishments of Mr. Watters and are honored to have received this very generous gift.

## Giving Back

by Joan Lassley, *Alumni Liaison*

As we look to the future of SJCL we are committed to the values that have made us strong. It is important for all of our alumni and friends to support us at any level of giving. That support helps show foundations and our community how critical our college is to the Central Valley. We have made the opportunity to give back easier by partnering with PayPal and offering online giving on our website [www.sjcl.edu/givingback](http://www.sjcl.edu/givingback).

There are many areas to give that can help us achieve our goals - the Annual fund, Library Building fund, Library fund, Matching Gift Program, Board Designated fund, Building fund, Judy Wiseman Memorial Scholarship, San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review, and Endowment Fund. Other opportunities for your gift could be an Endowed Scholarship, Scholarship, Endowed Faculty Chair, or Trial Advocacy support. If you have another special interest you wish to fund, please contact Joan Lassley, Alumni Liaison at 559-323-2100.

## New library staff

Ms. Kristi Costa has been hired as the San Joaquin College of Law (SJCL) Library's new Head of Circulation. Prior to joining SJCL, Ms. Costa received her BA in Communications from Fresno State in 2002. After spending a year working at Lake Tahoe, she returned to Fresno State to begin work on a Master's Degree in Communication. While working on her Master's, Ms. Costa worked as a Teaching Assistant at Fresno State and taught courses in Public Speaking and Group Communication. Ms. Costa received her MA in the spring of 2006 and began work at ICG Financial where she was the Head of the Employee Benefits department. In the Fall of 2006 Ms. Costa joined the first year class at SJCL.



**Kristi Costa**  
*Head of Circulation*

### Full-Time Faculty

Lawrence M. Artenian, Brian L. Baker, Richard M. Cartier, Denise M. Kerner, Janice L. Pearson, Sally A. Perring, Jeffrey G. Purvis

### Adjunct Faculty

Jesse Avila; Art Baggett, Barry J. Bennett, Hristo Bijev, Stanley A. Boone, David M. Camenson, Dan Casas, Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Phil Cronin, Mark Cullers, Matthew Farmer, Jack Fischer; Tom Georgouses, Christine Goodrich, Jason Hamm, Allan E. Junker, Hon. David Kalemkarian, Jeremy Lusk, Kathi K. Kesselman, Michael P. Mallery, Jeff Manning-Cartwright, Deanna Martinez, Lewis Martinez, William T. McLaughlin II, Mark D. Miller, Douglas E. Noll, Kimberly Nystrom-Geist, Harry Pascuzzi, Rose Safarian, Gary Sawyers, Michael Sheltzer, Michael Slater, Hon. Mark Snaufer, Bob Whitlock, Jacqueline Yates.

# SJCL Alumni Christmas Party

by **Judy Rogers**, 2006 Event Chair

In December the SJCL Alumni Association hosted the 13th annual Marjaree Mason party for the residents of the center. Generous donations were received in November and December from SJCL Alumni and staff to hold this wonderful event. Again this year we had the fantastic Kopi Sotiropoulos from KMPH26 “Great Day” as the Master of Ceremony with help from the Fresno Bee mascot, Scoopy (Christina Skaf ’07) and her elf, Jack. Good songs were sung and delicious food consumed. Alumni Association board member, Kevin Hansen, made arrangements for the Sunnyside High School Choir to perform. The electricity of the night was memorable. After the entertainment, Kopi called out each child by

name and Santa (Rick Horowitz, ’06) handed them their gifts. Joyce Morodomi took Polaroid pictures so each family had a memento of the evening. There were also gifts given to each Mom who attended. The Alumni Association wishes to thank all the generous donors for the event. Special thank yous to all those who shopped, decorated and coordinated the event: Jennifer Walters ’04, Susan Purvis ’00, Kim Mayhew

’98, Sherrie Flynn ’05, Nancy Le Van ’00, Charlotte Hylton ’00 (2006 SJCL Alumni President), Kevin Hansen ’85, Joan Lassley and Judy Rogers ’04.



FRONT ROW (L-R): **Kim Mayhew** (Law ’98), **Jennifer Walters** (Law ’05), Santa (**Rick Horowitz**, Law ’06), and **Judy Rogers** (Law ’04). BACK ROW (L-R): FRESNO BEE’S SCOOPY (**Christina Skaf-Hathaway** Law ’07), **Jack Hathaway**, **Kopi Sotiropoulos**, **Joan Lassley**, *Alumni Liaison*, and **Sherrie Flynn** (Law ’05).

# Law Review Emeritus Group

by **Sally Perring**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

The San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review, published once a year, provides students with the opportunity to pursue scholarly research for eventual publication. The student Board of Editors is charged each year with helping law review candidates successfully complete a comment, locating and editing professional articles, making all publishing decisions, managing all aspects of the physical publication of the law review, and choosing a successor Board at the end of its term. This is a great deal of work.

This fall a Law Review Emeritus Group, under the sponsorship of the

## Staff

**Janice Pearson**, Dean, **Sally Perring**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, **Brian Baker**, Director of the Law Library, **Debbi Chacon**, Secretary & Receptionist, **Kristi Costa**, Head of Circulation, **Ken Coyle**, Manager of Information Systems, **Matthew Dillard**, Maintenance Assistant, **Mark Enns**, Director of Marketing & Director of Public Relations, **Megan Fuller**, Library Assistant, **Maureen Hayes**, Assistant to Chief Financial Officer, **Lonzetta Hightower**, Student Services Assistant, **Joan Lassley**, Facilities Administrator & Alumni Liaison, **Jeannie Lewis**, Director of Financial Aid, **Joyce Morodomi**, Director of Student Services, **Carlyn Robbins**, Assistant Receptionist, **Rick Rodriguez**, Maintenance Supervisor, **Pete Rooney**, Associate Library Director & Head of Technical Services, **Michelle Rude**, Accounting Assistant, **Patricia Smith**, Law Coordinator, **Diane Steel**, Director of Admissions, **Cynthia Van Doren**, Director of Career Services, **Jill Waller-Randles**, Chief Financial Officer, **Gwen Watt**, Human Resources & Regulatory Compliance Officer, **Kasi Welte**, Development Assistant & Continuing Legal Education Coordinator

San Joaquin College of Law Alumni Association, was formed. This dedicated group of alumni, mostly past participants and past editors of law review, will provide support to the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review and its Board of Editors. The goal is for the group to bring their experience on the law review and their enthusiasm for the mission of the law review to aid the current Board of Editors and improve the overall operation of the law review. The group will be involved in helping to find articles and writers on important, current agricultural issues; to take a long needed second look at the Law Review Policies and Procedures Manual; and, to help with fund raising efforts to support the edi-

tors and to aid the law review in better fulfilling its mission. The members will also provide support to the Board of Editors if requested.

The Law Review provides an avenue for students to demonstrate their scholarly achievements in a manner highly prized in the legal community. Having a Law Review also distinguishes San Joaquin College of Law as a meaningful contributor to the legal and academic community.

If you would like more information about the Emeritus Group or are interested in contributing to this effort, contact Marcie Downing-Howk at [marcella.downing@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marcella.downing@sbcglobal.net).

# Race Judicata

by Sherrie Flynn

On Saturday, February 17, 2007 runners and walkers of all ages came from all over the Valley to participate in San Joaquin College of Law's annual Race Judicata Fun Run. Hosted by the Student Bar Association, over 300 people enjoyed the perfect weather for the ¼ mile kids run, 2 mile walk/run and the 5K race. The 5K race is a 10 point, "Valley Runner of the Year Series" event.

Race Director, Ken Takeuchi, announced the overall winners, as well as the gold, silver and bronze medal winners in each age category

in the three races. Alumnus Sherrie Flynn (Law '05) handed out the awards. Local favorite, Roosevelt Cook finished first overall male in the 5K, setting a new course record of 14 minutes, 33 seconds. Pam Boyles of Bakersfield finished the 5K in a fast overall female time of 18 minutes, 15 seconds.

San Joaquin College of Law Student Bar Association would like to thank this year's race sponsors; Emerson, Corey & Sorensen; Baker Manock &



Jensen; Parker, Kern, Nard & Wenzel; American Ambulance; Sherrie M. Flynn; Pinnacle Pilates; Marderosian, Runyon, Cercone, Lehman & Armo; Law Offices of Mark W. King; Sierra Running Co.; Richard M. Cartier / Mediation Law Office; Scott & Laurie Jones; Law Offices of Michael Jens F. Smith; and Daniel Yohman. Also many thanks go out to the student volunteers who helped make this race possible: Brooke Sorensen, Steven Graham, Courtney Caron, Leanne Kent, Shantelle Andrews, Shon Wilson, Margie Webb, Herb Chadbourne, Steve Malm, Sean Olson, Kristen Gates, Stephanie Grewal, Christina Skaf, Lisa Horton, and Kari Cox.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's race!

## Race Judicata Results

Age	5 K Mens Run	5 K Female Run	2 Mile Mens Run	2 Mile Females Run
Overall	Roosevelt Cook	Pam Boyles	Eder Sanchez	Danielle Gouart
0 - 9			Matthew Rodarte	Amanda Rea
10 - 14	Johnny Sanchez	Miranda Rodarte	Bobby Moore	Madison Plescia
15 - 18	Tony Rojas	Maria Hernandez	Chris Valdovinos	Aspen Flynn
19 - 24	Sean Marzolt	Lindsay Josavi	Raymond Workman	Christina Rodriguez
25 - 29	Steve Moreno	Elisa M. Angolo	Miguel Gomez	Patricia Martinez
30 - 34	Luis Granado	Lea Nibur	Roberto De Leon	Aimee Leyva
35 - 39	Oswaldo Nava	Hope Rodriguez	Brad Butler	Cindy Solso
40 - 44	John Owens	Gail Futrell	John Rhyne	
45 - 49	Eric Little	Nellie Gonzales	Artemio Villegas	Karen Garza
50 - 54	Dale Campbell	Marice Smith	David Provenico	Margaret Urroz
55 - 59	John Aldrich	Donna Aldrich	Jim Barnes	
60 - 64	Gordon Keller			Virginia Sierra
65 - 69			Steve Freeland	Holly Tennent
70 +	Frank Delgado		Chris Denny	Sydney Lou
Wheel Chair				Josefina Ortega

Age	1/4 Mile Boys Run	1/4 Mile Girls Run
3	Owen Monke	Carlie Vonek
4	Josiah Glynn	Angela Young
5		Irene Stupar
6	Joshua Young	Delaney Drake
7	Jacob Solso	Cassidy Leath
8	Trey Mayhew	Ashley Mcneil
9	Tanner Leath	

Age	2 Mile Mens Walk
50 +	James Mccall

Age	2 Mile Females Walk
0 - 29	Niole Schmidt
30 - 39	Jill Fontes
50 +	Jamelie Taylor

# SJCL Lifetime Cumulative Contribution Donor Wall Reception

On Friday, January 26, 2007 San Joaquin College of Law hosted a thank you reception for donors and friends of the law school. The generosity of our donors has enabled SJCL to climb to new levels of excellence. Our donors have looked beyond their own needs to the needs of the community and the next generation of leaders.

SJCL had the pleasure of honoring and presenting an honorary Juris Doctorate degree to Elizabeth O'Neill. Mrs. O'Neill has served on the Board of Trustees with dedication and wisdom for 14 years. Celebrating with Mrs. O'Neill was her family, Judge Lawrence O'Neill and his wife, Elizabeth's daughter Kit Wersching and husband Randy, and Elizabeth's son Robert and his wife. Also attending from the bench were Judge Annette LaRue, Judge Sandra Snyder and Judge Brad Hill. SJCL Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Doug Noll and Dean Janice Pearson thanked the attendees for their continued support and enlightened the crowd with information about SJCL's future.



Judge **Lawrence O'Neill**, Mrs. **Elizabeth O'Neill**, daughter **Kit Wersching**, and son **Robert O'Neill**



Board Member **David Weiland** and Board Chair **Doug Noll**



Professor **Jeffrey Purvis** and Library Director **Brian Baker**



**Kathy McKenna** (Law '99), with adjunct professor **Robert Whitlock** & wife **Carol**



Board Members **Bob Whalen** and **Ross Borba**



SJCL Founder and Board Member, **John Loomis**, with wife **Sue**



SBA Vice President **Steven Graham** (Law '09) with SJCL students **Alexandra Belardinelli** (Law '10), and **John "Wes" Myers** (Law '10) & guest **Nelly Fergus**



**Leanne Kent** (Law '08) President Delta Theta Phi; **Courtney Caron** (Law '07) President, Student Bar Association; and **Ben Greer** (Law '09).

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Thomas Saville

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Honorable Charles  
& Catherine Wieland

# Alumni Profiles

*SJCL congratulates our alumni celebrating 10, 20 and 30-year anniversaries in 2007. It has been my pleasure contacting and interviewing each of you. Thanks to those who participated in this effort. I look forward to catching up at the next milestone.*

*-Joan Lassley, Alumni Liaison*

## 1977

### Kathy Hart (Seiler)

For the last twenty years Kathy has been self-employed as “Law Offices of Katherine Hart,” as a criminal law practitioner and labor and employment law litigator. She is on the Fresno County Superior Court special circumstances and death penalty homicide panel, and on the Federal Criminal Justice Act panel. Between the appointed and retained work, she is always busy with some weird or offbeat case. Her early years in law practice were spent in the Fresno County Public Defender’s office. Before starting her own practice, she also worked for three years for Barry Bennett, learning labor law from the best.

Kathy has five children: Erika Hart Hindle, 40; Alison Seiler, 27; Pauline Seiler, 26; Robert Seiler, 24; Katie Seiler, 21. Four of her children were post law-school, infusing her life with new meaning to the probate doctrine—learned only in law school—of the “fertile octogenarian.”

Her biggest award ever was getting the valedictorian award from San Joaquin College of Law in 1977. Her next most memorable awards were that of being elected Fresno County Bar Association President in 1992-1993 and receiving an award for being one of the founding editors of the Fresno County Bar Bulletin, the official publication of the Fresno County Bar Association.

Kathy loves hiking, backpacking, world traveling, playing jazz piano, cooking, and reading. In July 2007 she is joining twelve people from the National Sierra Club and a group of

llamas (we’re talking wooly-hoofed llamas, not spiritual-leader lamas) for an international backpack in the high country in Peru. When she is not making good use of her leisure time, she watches a lot of forensic files on Court TV.

Kathy is active in VIP Mentors (formerly Volunteers in Parole), an organization that matches parolees with attorney mentors. She is also an outings volunteer for the Tehipite Chapter of the National Sierra Club, leading hikes and backpacks in the Sierra. For thirty years she has written articles for the Fresno County Bar Bulletin, especially capitalizing on her sometimes hysterically funny offbeat world travels with her disputatious children. She hopes someday to write “Not Just Another Rick Steves Guidebook,” though she admires Rick Steves tremendously.

In recalling her days at SJCL, she states, “How did we ever have the time and energy to work all day, go to school all night, and still party hearty? We were young then, and still inventing ourselves.” Her favorite memories were working on the newspaper (DICTA) staff. One day the DICTA staff was at fellow classmate and DICTA editor Bruce Owdom’s house, preparing the law school newspaper for publication. Kathy saw a large beautiful whole fish, glistening with scales, marinating in an antique plate, ready to be morphed into some poached dinner table wonder. “Bruce” I cried, “Are you hiding a girlfriend here? No man would marinate a fish in an heirloom plate!” It turned out Bruce’s new girlfriend, Debbie, a classmate, was the marinator, and Kathy would like to think she caught the first signs of Bruce and Deborah Owdom’s (Deborah Owdom, Class

of 1976) relationship. They have been married almost 30 years. And this is no fish story!

### Michael Marderosian

Michael has been engaged in his own private practice since graduation. It has evolved to a full service law firm with 13 attorneys and a total staff of 35 employees with offices in Fresno, Los Angeles and Seattle. The firm is AV rated by Martindale Hubbell. They are the 9th largest firm in the Valley according to the Fresno Business Journal. The firm specializes in civil trial litigation with unique practice areas in entertainment and sports litigation.

Michael has been married to Lorie for 34 years. They have two sons who live in Los Angeles. Mick’s wife is an interior decorator; she decorated the firms new offices in downtown Fresno.

Mick is a proud member of the American College of Trial Lawyers and American Board of Trial Advocates. He is also a member of the California, Washington, D.C. and State of Washington bar associations. Mick is the only SJCL graduate to be inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers. Less than 1% of attorneys in America are invited into this prestigious organization.

Mick enjoys music and reading the biographies of musical artists and song writers. He has been active as a building owner in the further development of downtown Fresno.

When asked about his memories of law school he states, “We had a small class (18) and enjoyed a close bond and helped each other. This manifested itself when we had a near 100% bar pass rate on the first try.” He also is proud that his firm has been one of the most supportive firms in Fresno by hiring SJCL grads. Of 13 lawyers, 7 (over 50%) are SJCL grads.

### Dennis Mederos

Dennis began practice with the Fresno County Public Defender’s Office in 1978 and later joined the law firm of Soares and Rowson. Dennis is



currently a partner in the law firm of Horswill, Mederos & Soares in Tulare. He focuses on agricultural law. Dennis handles criminal and civil litigation, transactional matters, agricultural and dairy leases, dairy water agreements, easements, real property transactions, business law and estate planning.

Dennis has served on the Boards of Trustees of the Tulare County branch of the American Cancer Society, and the Tulare City Historical Society. He is the past President of the Tulare-Angra do Heroismo Sister City Foundation and a member of the Tulare County Cabrillo Club and the Roma Lodge of the Sons of Italy. In 2002, he served as Chairman for the Tulare Joint Union High School Boundary Redistricting Committee. In 1989 and 1997 he received the American Cancer Society's Esther Greenberg Memorial Award for notable contributions for his fundraising efforts in support of cancer control in Tulare County. Along with his wife, Cathy, in 2005 he was awarded the Golden Apple Award for service to education by the Tulare County Chapter of the Association of California School Administrators. Dennis has served as counsel for the Tulare Chamber of Commerce for over 10 years. His firm was named the 2005 Small Business of the Year in Tulare. In 1991-1992 Dennis served as President of the Tulare County Bar Association.

Dennis married Cathy in 1979. They have three children: Melissa, Megan and Michael. Melissa graduated from University of California, Irvine in 2004 and is an executive assistant for Congressman Devin Nunes of Tulare. Megan graduated from the University of Southern California in 2006. Michael is currently attending the University of California, Los Angeles.

Dennis' current interests include reading, sports and spending time with his family. He also enjoys playing golf when he can find the time.

Dennis commented, "The time spent at SJCL was full of uncertainty and hard work. However, I made friend-

## 2006-'07 Donors

August 1, 2006 - March 1, 2007

*San Joaquin College of Law thanks the following individuals and organizations for their gifts. Their generosity helps SJCL deliver an outstanding academic program to students.*

### Gifts of \$5,000-9,999

American Board of Trial Advocates - California Chapter and Richard C. Watters (Board)  
The Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation  
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Marina Gonzales ('93)  
H. Ty Kharazi ('96)  
Jennifer Morrison ('99)  
William Patnaude  
Sally A. Perring (Faculty)  
W. Scott Quinlan ('81)  
Nancy Smith ('80)  
Gwen Watt (Staff)  
Charles Wieland ('83)  
James Witherow ('87)  
Wells Fargo Bank

### Gifts of \$100-249

Steven Alfieris ('97)  
Fran Christiansen ('79)  
Katherine Coolidge ('79)  
James Demsey  
Robert Durbrow  
Donald Fretz  
Don Germino  
Douglas Haas  
Timothy Hart ('83)

Stacie Melikian ('06)  
Kathleen Millison  
The Honorable R.L. "Chip" Putnam ('75)  
Mary K. Rau ('91)  
Stephen Sefton ('78)  
James Shepard  
Sharon Stull ('85)  
Regina Tanner ('95)  
Scott Van Wagenen ('92)  
Walter Law Group (In Honor of Dean Pryor)  
Howard Watkins  
Weymouth Pest Control & Tamara P. Smith ('02)

### Other

Jack and Della Dickey  
Erica Camarena ('02)  
Ken Coyle (Staff)  
Linda Kelly ('86)  
David Overstreet ('81)  
Vernon Reynolds  
Nancy Silacci ('80)  
Cynthia and Darren Van Doren (Staff) ('04)  
Jill Waller-Randles (Staff)  
Kasi Welte (Staff)

### Donation of Books to the Library

Court of Appeal, Fifth District of California  
Ray Isleib  
Miles, Sears, & Eanni  
Stanford University-Robert Crown Library  
Philip E. Tavlian ('80)

### In-Kind Gifts

Bennett & Sharpe Inc.

## Class Participation

August 1, 2006 - March 1, 2007

### Top 5 Classes in Participation

1. 1979	20.00%
2. 1983	18.18%
3. 1981	15.38%
4. 1980	10.00%
5. 1975	9.09%

### Top 5 Classes in Financial Support

1. 1996
2. 1995
3. 2001
4. 1993
5. 1985

ships that still exist today. I recall many interesting stories (some I can tell and others that are better kept secret). It was very rewarding and an exciting period in my life.”

## Andrew Sorensen

Andrew came from the Midwest . SJCL was his introduction to California; he did not know anyone in the state. People such as Bruce Owdom, Dennis Mederos, Jim Swanson and Mick Marderosian became good friends and were great study partners. In Andrew’s second year at SJCL he met Dan Yohman, who introduced him to his sister-in-law, Pat. Andrew and Pat have now been married for nearly twenty-nine years, with three great kids - Brooke, Kelly and Amanda.

Andrew began his law career as a Deputy Public Defender for Fresno County. In 1982 he joined one of Fresno’s oldest civil law firms, Lerrigo, Walters, Nibler, Moss and Berryman, where he became a partner in 1985. He handled business litigation matters in Federal and State courts for numerous local employers. In 1992 Andrew was called to Wisconsin to operate the family business, but returned to California in 2003.

Andrew’s life has been intertwined with SJCL. Constitutional Law instructor, Mel Nitz, then the Fresno County Public Defender, gave Andrew his first job in the Public Defender’s office. Andrew’s wife, Pat, a CPA, assisted in teaching classes at SJCL in the Master’s in Taxation Program. Now their daughter, Brooke, is a second-year student at SJCL. (far exceeding her dad as a student).

Andrew is a member of the Fresno County Bar Association and the Los Angeles County Bar Association. He is admitted to practice before the United States District Court – Eastern District of California and Central District of California, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal, the United States District Court- Western District of Wisconsin, and the Seventh District Court of

Appeals. He is a member of the business, employment, and agricultural sections of the State Bar of California.

Andrew is presently a partner with the firm of Emerson, Corey & Sorensen. Andrew’s primary areas of practice are employment law, insurance defense, business litigation and agricultural law. Andrew enjoys his work at the firm with three other SJCL graduates, Carol Corey, Dan Yohman and Fred Meine. His partner, Jim Emerson, has been a staunch supporter of the school, having hired numerous SJCL graduates over the years. Andrew says it is gratifying to see how well SJCL graduates have done in the community. Jan, her staff and the faculty should be very proud.

## Daniel G. Yohman

Daniel says it has been a good run since being admitted to the Bar in 1978. “As a new lawyer from a relatively new night law school, the big Fresno firms were not ready to take a hiring risk. Years later the little law school has its share of excellent lawyers and, in fact, those lawyers now have their share of firm ownership and are making a significant contribution to the community.”

Daniel recently returned to the practice of law with the firm of Emerson, Corey and Sorensen after an early retirement that took his family to Las Vegas for real estate sales, a little adventure and total removal from a 25-year routine of clients, billable hours and the joys of personnel matters. “The rest was good for the soul.”

The sabbatical taught him that the law does get into the blood and that it has an attraction that is distinct from the business of being a lawyer. Both are the reality, but it is only after putting in the years and then getting away for a while that he fully realized the distinction.

Over the years Daniel had the good fortune to work with some of Fresno’s finest names like Dawson and Ninnis; Ferrari, Cole and Tusan; Hanna and

Brophy; Mullen and Filippi; Emerson and Yrulegui. In 1992 the Law Office of Daniel G. Yohman was founded, later growing to become Yohman, Parker, Kern, Nard and Wenzel with 15 attorneys and 2 offices. Today Parker, Kern, Nard and Wenzel goes forward and is a source of pride. Daniel is equally proud that Jim Emerson and brother-in-law Andrew Sorensen provide a second look at a great profession with good times and good lawyering ahead in areas of employment and real property law.

During the 25 plus years in business, Daniel’s most satisfying work has been the opportunity to learn from those who have come before him in the profession and to teach and assist those who will come after. He says new lawyers seem to get smarter and more talented each year.

Daniel has served as President of the California Workers Compensation Defense Attorney Association and been a member of the State Bar Executive Committee of the Workers Compensation Section, taught in the Business Department of Fresno City College and was a board member of the Northern California Worker Compensation Defense Attorney Association.

Daniel has been married to wife, Donna, for 38 years. Together they have 4 children and 3 grandchildren. Photography, R.V. travel, golf and Fresno State Athletics occupy the bulk of their free time.

Daniel says he will remember San Joaquin College of Law for providing the ticket to a good professional life. The study group, Judge Best and his evidence class and Justice Oliver Wanger’s staccato teaching style are his fondest memories.

## 1987 Carol Corey

When reached for an interview, Carol stated “I would love to be in an article with Dan Yohman and Andy

Sorensen. They are great guys to work with and we all tolerate the non-San Joaquin grads, like Jim Emerson, who are in our office.”

Carol is celebrating her 20th year by taking another BAR EXAM. She claims it must be some evidence of her growing senility.

Carol’s law school baby is now a junior at Reed College in Portland and her only grandchild lives in Eugene. So... she and her husband will be moving to Portland next summer. Carol’s plan is to continue working in cyberspace with the law firm of Emerson, Corey & Sorensen and return occasionally as needed. Carol hopes to do some pro bono work in Portland after she passes their bar.

Carol has great law school memories and continues to be good friends with Flora Istanbulian and Earla Phebus. She really misses her study partners but they both thought she was nuts and refused to even think about moving to Oregon. Carol thinks San Joaquin is a great school; she appreciated the opportunity she had for a rewarding career. She cut the bio short because she said, “I have to get back to this man who is droning on about a bill of attainder.”

## 1997 David L. Milligan

David worked as a law clerk before graduating from SJCL, so he was comfortable going out on his own as a solo practitioner after being sworn-in. When he raised his right hand, he had over 15 cases waiting for him to work on, and a few lawyers wanting him to associate with them on complex medical malpractice matters, and even a class action.

As a Past President of the Central California Trial Lawyer’s Association (CCTLA), David received two President’s Awards for Outstanding Civil Litigation, and for Protecting the Rights of Consumers. During his tenure as President of the CCTLA, he

also served on the Board of Governors for the Consumer Attorneys of California helping to enact legislation to protect consumers’ rights. He is a member of the FCBA, ABA Litigation Section, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, CAOC, and CCTLA.

David is the proud father of two beautiful girls: Shannon 7, and Kristin 5. After his girls, his next love is flying. He started going up in Cessna 150’s when he was 12. He is now an instrument rated private pilot working on his commercial license, and has competed and flown search and rescue for the Tulare County Sheriff’s Aerosquadron including searches over the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

“My first impression of SJCL was when I attended a seminar for prospective law students. Another attendee asked the second year students on the panel: “Why are you here and those that failed aren’t?” The answer was simple but profound: “Because I wanted it more.” “That stayed with me throughout law school.” After beginning SJCL, the first thing that stands out for David is Dean Pearson’s phenomenal memory: “I remember our first day of Torts when she memorized ALL of our names. Well, I knew then that I would be held accountable at SJCL.” After passing the first year, David was asked to participate in Law Review, but since he worked full time as a law clerk, he didn’t have the time. Overall what he remembers most of SJCL is the great people; staff and faculty that really cared and wanted to help. “We were certainly held to a high standard, but the people at SJCL made that high standard attainable.”

David loves fighting for people that can’t fight for themselves, so he tries a few cases per year. He believes he is doing what he is supposed to do; it’s one of his purposes in life. So, it’s his privilege to do it.

## Rick Wolf

Rick is currently General Counsel at Children’s Hospital of Central California (CHCC). The experience

has been challenging. Health care law is a labyrinth of federal and state administrative rules and regulations, each agency enforcing a unique set of rules that were often drafted with adult facilities in mind. These rules apply to literally every aspect of running a hospital, from clinical standards of care to operations, construction, and employment. Since Rick is required to be something of a jack of all trades, master of none, he has had the privilege of working through specific legal issues with several outstanding local attorneys in the public and private sector, many of whom have either taught at or graduated from SJCL. Prior to joining CHCC, Rick practiced insurance defense litigation with Emerson, Corey and Barsotti, and school/public entity defense and representation at Stroup and deGoede.

Rick is married to Tonya and they have two sons, Jacob (8) and Colby (5). They enjoy trips to the usual California haunts. He also rediscovered an interest in singing. Rick is active in his local church. He sings in the choir and teaches an Awana class consisting of their oldest son and five other energetic eight-year-olds. He occasionally does pro bono work and serves on the Health Law Committee of the Business Law Section of the State Bar.

Rick had some moot court awards in law school and went to Florida for the Tax Moot Court competition in ‘96 or ‘97. He believes he still has a runner-up oralist plaque somewhere.

Rick’s special SJCL memories include occasional long, late night study sessions with David Searson, Annette Ballatore-Williamson, David Koogler, Larry Soleagui, Leslie Dillahunty, Judy Barron, Susan Moore, Dan Green and Janice Westerberg. Janice and Rick traveled to Florida for the Tax Moot Court Competition. He also recalls playing some intense softball games with the Litigators (Joan Lassley, Linden Lindahl, Melissa White, Patrick Aguirre and others). Joan played a mean first base.

# Congratulations July 2006 Barpassers



## Kasi Welte

Kasi is the person responsible for keeping your addresses up to date. If you need to update your address information please contact Kasi at [kwelte@sjcl.edu](mailto:kwelte@sjcl.edu) or 559/323-2100.



Front Row (L-R): Andrew Aller, John Dyer, and Gary Winter

Middle Row (L-R): Mike Slater, Stacie Melikian, Autumn Goodrich Lodwick, Shannon Pell, and Brian Binkley

Back Row (L-R): Rick Horowitz, Serita Rios, and Chris Engelskirger

Not Pictured: Rachelle Berglund-Bailey, Brenda Hook, Angela Tapia Karst, Elizabeth McGee, Joe Pressutti, and John Tully

**SJCL**

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