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San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

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Third Annual Donor Wall Reception

On Friday, February 1, 2008, San Joaquin College of Law hosted its third annual reception for donors with lifetime giving levels on the Donor Wall.

By **Robin Leppo**, *Director of Institutional Advancement*

The generosity of our donors has enabled SJCL to continue providing excellent legal education. Our donors have chosen to keep SJCL in the forefront of their giving and allowed us to continue to make the extraordinary possible. This year's donor wall saw 13 new donor additions and 8 new donor elevations.

The evening began with Robin Leppo, Director of Institutional Advancement, thanking the attendees for attending and presented the Fresno Pacific University Chamber Singers,

which regaled the crowd with a lively compilation of songs.

SJCL had the pleasure of honoring donors who have given cumulatively \$15,000 or more to scholarships. A past scholarship recipient presented each one with a token of appreciation for their giving. Those donors present were Carl Brown (Law '76), Marcie Downing-Howk (Law '05), current SJCL Alumni Association President, and Steven Graham, current SJCL Student Bar Association President. Other scholarship donors recognized,

but not present included, the Leon S. Peters Foundation, the Pete P. Peters Foundation, Albert Ramirez (Law '96), James and Carol Sellers Herbert, and Ernest Kinney (Law '75). Special mention was also given to alumnus, Darryl Freedman and his wife, Gretchen, for their recent pledge of \$50,000 towards the new Law Library building fund. The evening ended with Dean Janice Pearson thanking the attendees for their continued support and accepting a new annual \$1000 scholarship from the Clovis Soroptimist Club, presented by Joan Lassley.



Fresno Pacific University Chamber Singers conducted by **Roy Klassen**



Bennie McGriff, recipient, with donor **Carl Brown** (Law '76)



Mark King (Law '05), recipient, and **Steven Graham**, *President, SJCL Student Bar Association*



Marcie Downing-Howk (Law '05) *President, SJCL Alumni Association* and **Joan Lassley**, *Alumni Liaison*



Tiffany Pack-Low and **Shylo Oakes** representing **Darryl Freedman** (Law '93) with **Janice Pearson**, *Dean*

Exceed Expectations

With your help we can exceed expectations and build San Joaquin College of Law's enrollment!

By **Diane Steel**, *Admission Director*

Exceed Expectations. We've all heard this phrase. But what does it mean to a student thinking about going to law school? I hope it means that anytime a San Joaquin College of Law alumni, faculty member or staff member comes into contact with someone who has the potential to be an attorney, he or she encourages this person to go to law school. Better yet, I hope it means that you invite this individual out to lunch and convey that you think he or she would make an excellent attorney, igniting the passion and energy in them to continue their education and use their talents to make a difference in the world. I truly believe that the journey to success lies not only in challenging yourself to be your best but in inspiring others to be their best. What better legacy can we leave behind?

Exceeding the expectations of a prospective law school student or a current law school student means offering a bit of encouragement in every encounter; it means sharing a personal story of your own law school experience or love for your profession. It means taking the time to come by the law school to introduce the person you believe might make a great attorney to San Joaquin College of Law.

How can you tell if you're exceeding expectations? Listen in for conversations taking place about the legal

profession and about San Joaquin College of Law, its programs, students and faculty. If you enter the conversation, do so carefully—not as one supporting the voices of disgruntled individuals quick to offer the sarcasm of lawyer jokes, but as a contributor, welcoming others into this important profession. Tune into what this unique person might contribute with the knowledge gained from a law degree. As a legal

professional, the best way to reach today's prospective law school student is to exceed expectations.

I appreciate your support in mentoring students and referring them to San Joaquin College of Law. Please consider bringing a prospective student to one of our upcoming events highlighted below.

Free Informational Law Forums

Thursday, March 13, Wednesday, April 16, Thursday, May 15
7 – 9 pm

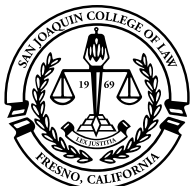
Prospective students will have the opportunity to meet with currently enrolled students and a faculty member to learn about law school, from courses offered to admission requirements and tuition costs.

Lawyer Alumni Panel

Thursday, April 24
7 – 9 pm

Prospective students are invited to learn from a panel of alumni and attorneys in this free Lawyer Alumni Forum and discover more about the profession and the multitude of applications a law degree can provide. Students are encouraged to ask questions and engage in the discussion.

Panelists – Erica Mercado Camarena (Law '02); Elizabeth Egan (Law '95), Fresno County District Attorney; Michael Elder (Law '05), Deputy District Attorney; Darryl Freedman (Law '93), Plaintiff Personal Injury; Rene Turner Sample (Law '88), Trial Attorney; and Victor Salazar (Law '93), Fresno County Clerk.



Board of Trustees

Professor Larry Artenian, J.D., Ross Borba, *Vice Chair*, Jr., Richard Caglia, J.D., Hon. Jane Cardoza, Deborah Ann Coe, J.D., Greg Durbin, J.D., Edward D. Fanucchi, J.D., Traci Fritzler, J.D., Steven J. Graham, *SBA President*, Jan L. Kahn, J.D., John Loomis, J.D., Kimberly J. Mayhew, J.D., *Alumni Representative*, Douglas Noll, J.D., *Chair*, Hon. Robert Oliver, Wanda L. Rogers, Dianna Setoodeh, J.D., Dennis Veeh, CPA, Richard Watters, J.D., David Weiland, J.D., Bob Whalen, J.D.

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SJCL Alumni Association Update

By **Marcella Downing** (Law '05), 2008 Alumni President

The annual Marjaree Mason Christmas party was a huge success. It was an evening to remember, setting a wonderful tone for the holidays for all of us including the kids and moms.

Once again, we are fully engaged in planning the Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament which will be held March 29th to raise money for that endowed scholarship. We also are supporting the Spirit of SJCL and the Carolyn T. Mirviss scholarships.

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 6pm at the school. We welcome all members and those interested in becoming members to attend our meetings. Please take the time to go to the website and download a membership application to join the association. It is only \$30 a year.



The Alumni Association Board would like to thank the alumni who so generously donated to make the Marjaree Mason Christmas party a success.

Faith Potter, Jim Witherow, Jane Woodcock, Kimberly Sweidy, John & Barbara Mesrobian, Malcolm Stewart, Michelle Oleksa, Donna Korotie, Karen Buck, Dianna Setoodeh, James Mele, Craig Fry, Glen Gates, Bradley Stevens, John Douglas Suhr, Annette Ballatore-Williamson, Ernest Kinney, Maria Hoover, Sheri Fisher, Priscilla Craft, David Hollingsworth, Kath-

erine Hart, Marvin Helon, Kathy McKenna, Hon. Charles Wieland, Hon. Nancy Cisneros, Scott Jones, Joanna Ebner and Nancy Silacci.

SJCL Staff donors were, Ken Coyle, Janice Pearson, Jeannie Lewis, Maureen Hayes, Joyce Morodomi, Rich Cartier, Robin Leppo, Gwen Watt and Joan Lassley.

Judy Rogers donated half of the great Mexican food and Matt Hay-

worth and Craig Calandra donated the Orange Belt Stage lines bus to transport the children and moms. Jennifer Walters baked amazing treats for the kids.

We would also like to recognize and thank Roger Bergman and The Buchanan Choir, Scoopy, The Fresno Bee mascot (Jack Hathaway), Parker from the Fresno Grizzlies. Santa (Rick Horowitz) and from KMPH, Kopi Sotiropoulos.

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at marcella.downing@sbcglobal.net. We are looking forward to year of unprecedented support for SJCL!

Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament

Mark your calendars and clean off the clubs and cleats for March 29!



By **Kathy McKenna** (Law '99), *Tournament Co-Chair*

The 6th Annual Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament will take place on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at the beautiful Sherwood Forest Golf Club. If you participated last year, you know what a great day we had, with beautiful weather, a challenging putting contest, and a great lunch after play ended. We had great prizes including a chance to win a new truck that was sponsored by Hedrick's Chevrolet.

Don't miss out on the fun this year. Join us, bring a team or two, and encourage you business associates to sponsor a hole or donate a prize for our raffle. Get the hole in one and win a shiny new Silverado! All the proceeds support our efforts to permanently endow a scholarship honoring the memory of Judy Wiseman, an SJCL student who succumbed to cancer in 2002.

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, Andreas Borgeas, 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 Snauffer, Bob Whitlock, Jacqueline Yates.

Alumni Profiles

SJCL congratulates our alumni celebrating 10, 20 and 30-year anniversaries in 2008. 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

1978 Judy Evans Deertrack

Judy currently works for the Riverside County Transportation and Land Management Agency (RCTLMA), Desert Planning Office. She is the Lead Development Review Official for the Coachella Valley (unincorporated area) Planning Department. Judy holds a Masters degree in City and Regional Planning from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

Judy is divorced. She has step-children, two step-grandchildren, and one step great-grandchild. Judy has a large extended family and abundant friends, in a rich social environment (primarily Palm Springs).

Judy has co-authored two community plans that have been adopted by City Councils and are posted on the internet. One is the Specific Plan for the Historic Arsenal District, Benicia, California, and the other is a community plan for Saticoy & Wells, on the eastern edge of the City of Ventura. Judy has now developed an interest in opera and Broadway music.

She is a member of the Desert Chorale, Coachella Valley, and performed throughout the Christmas Season. After moving to Palm Springs Judy started from scratch singing and performing.

She has the pleasure of voice lessons from Ms. Janet Hopkins, a dramatic soprano with the New York Metropolitan Opera for the last 25 years.

She sang at the Indian Wells Performing Arts Center and Palm Springs Annenberg Theater on February 12 and 13, 2008 in a small solo grouping called Musical Chairs Productions. Judy also performs solo at several restaurants in the Valley, working with wonderful pianists such as Bill Marx (son of Harpo Marx) and Gale Enger, a former pianist that worked with Leonard Bernstein and debuted the famous African-American opera singer, Leontyne Price. Judy hopes to start working shortly with the jazz pianist, Buddy Greco and his wife, Lezlie. Judy is in "music heaven."

Judy spends time at Well of the Desert (Homeless Organization). She is a member of Palm Springs Opera Guild and Bill Edelen's lecture group. Bill Edelen was a Unitarian minister who now writes and speaks against the abuses of right-wing fundamentalism and politics, and lectures from the great works of mystical and scientific thinkers

Judy remembers Kathy Kesselman's lemon meringue pie parties (made from fresh lemons in her back yard); Dr. Michael Kesselman's Mickey

Mouse T-shirts; Sylvia Stewart's sauna in the oak forest; singing "Oklahoma" with the Honorable Georgia "Peach" York; handsome Tom Giovachinni's infectious laugh and insane, maddening stories; Steve (Cool Hand Luke) Simonian passing the Bar on 10 hours of study per week; the kindness of my instructors; hyper-ventilating through the State Bar; the code word, "Piece of Cake," which meant all of us passed the State exams -- no friend left behind.

Stephen M. Denning

Since graduation, Stephen has been engaged in the private practice of law, the last twenty years of which have been as a sole practitioner. He is the owner of the Law Offices of Stephen M. Denning, a Professional Corporation. They emphasize business and tax law, estate planning, probate and trust administration, and commercial debt collection.

Stephen has been happily married to Jean Denning for 34 years. Jean is an office manager at Buchanan High School. She loves interacting with the students and members of the staff and faculty. They have one daughter, Sarah McCaughey. Sarah was married on September 1, 2007. Her husband, Padraic, is considering a career in law and has applied to SJCL for the fall 2008 term.

In 1985 Stephen was awarded a Masters in Taxation from SJCL.

Stephen's interests include golfing with friends (he wishes he had more time for it), cooking (especially on the grill) for family and friends, and reading.

Stephen is proud to be a charter member and past president of the

Staff

Janice Pearson, Dean, **Sally Perring**, Dean of Academic Affairs, **Brian Baker**, Director of the Law Library, **Debbi Chacon**, Accounting Assistant, **Kristi Costa**, Head of Circulation, **Ken Coyle**, Manager of Information Systems, **Matthew Dillard**, Maintenance Assistant, **Mark Enns**, Marketing Manager, **Megan Fuller**, Library Assistant, **Maureen Hayes**, Assistant to Chief Financial Officer, **Lonzetta Hightower**, Student Services Assistant, **Joan Lassley**, Facilities Administrator & Alumni Liaison, **Robin Leppo**, Director of Institutional Advancement, **Jeannie Lewis**, Director of Financial Aid, **Joyce Morodomi**, Director of Student Services & Special Events Coordinator, **Mia Richards**, Administrative Assistant for Accounting, **Carlyn Robbins**, Administrative Assistant/ Receptionist, **Rick Rodriguez**, Maintenance Supervisor, **Pete Rooney**, Associate Library Director & Head of Technical Services, **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**, Institutional Advancement Associate & Continuing Legal Education Coordinator

Our Gem Has Been Polished Again



Thanks to our donors we raised enough money to paint our historic building. The last Polish our Gem campaign was in 1998 when we asked former Clovis High School Cougars to support the efforts of keeping the building in top-notch shape. SJCL has a special fund set up to support these efforts. SJCL thanks our generous CHS alumni donors (their respective class year is listed) and supporters.

Diamond (over \$2,000)
Dr. Lee and Carol '64 Copeland

Emerald (\$500 - \$999)
Anonymous '44
CHS Class of 1967
Jim '64 & Carole '64 Linenbach
Jim, Laurie & Joanne Riedenaer

Sapphire (\$200-\$499)
Bob Burchfield '69
Leta Ciavaglia '72
Bill Crowston '50
James '51 and Coke '53 (Smith) Hallowell
Joan Bjorkman Lassley '66
Paul '67 & Kathy Mesple
Fred '48 and Susie '49 Osterberg
Bud '40 and Evelyn '44 Rank
Thomas Strentz '57

Topaz (\$50-\$199)
Janice Bell '45
Virginia Gamlin Blevins '49
Gordon & Ilene Bjorkman
Beverly Carlson '43
CHS Class of 1955
CHS Class of 1964
Mary Sue Lassley Church '58
Bobby L & Joyce Davis '49
Rita Davenport '66
Kathryn Linenbach Fitelson '61

Helen Storelli Hall '35
Dale Ikeda '69
Raymond P. Johnson '44
Lois Lusk McFarland '49
In Memory of Wanda DeGraw
In Memory of Susie Osterberg '49
In Memory of AJ van Wyhe '30
In Memory of Norval Wills
In Memory of Abe Ginsburg
Denise Mesple '64
Byron & Sayre (McFarlane) Miller '67
James Mueller '57
Donna Jones Olson '49
Janice Pearson
Judith Preuss '57
John & Karen Reynolds '53
Phillip Rice '53
Wayne '51 and Roberta '53 Rohde
Rondero Family (Cora) '45
Mary '46 & Cliff '42 Steward
Christine & Howard Watkins

(\$1-\$50)
Betty Andreis Black '39
De Wayne and Delma Denton '53
Jack '52 & Della Dickey '53
Fumio '38 & Mine Ikeda '42
Barbara Leith '40
Norma Meek '38
Donald R. Turl '47

Fresno Sunrise Rotary Club. The Club will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2008. Over the years, the club has contributed many thousands of dollars to individuals and charities in our community with the goal of making it a better place to live. He looks forward to many more years of service.

James Donabed

While attending SJCL, James worked as a radio announcer and control board operator for a local radio station. In fact, he started his broadcasting career at age 16 while attending high school. It was hard but he was able to keep up with living expenses to get him through school. After graduation, James went to work at the Fresno County District Attorney's Office for 5 years. He then opened a law practice emphasizing family law and real estate.

As the years passed, his practice emphasis became real estate land use and regulatory compliance. Presently, James represents clients seeking to obtain land use permits from govern-

ment regulatory agencies. He has appeared before the California Integrated Waste Management Board and obtained approval for a number of recycling and solid waste facilities. James worked on the development team that obtained approval for two natural gas powered electrical power generation plants and has secured approval for the construction of additional commercial broadcast stations in the valley. He loves computerized research and works mostly via his Blackberry.

James has been married to Linda for 20 years. Linda is the assistant manager of the American Indian Shop in Fresno. Their son, Anthony, is employed by the State of California at the Atascadero Mental Hospital and their daughter, Tabitha, lives in Fresno raising grandchild, Quinn. James also finds time to provide care to his 90-year-old mother who lives alone.

James has been active with the Leukemia/Lymphoma society, judges the George Hooper Moot Court competi-

tion at the law school each year, and is an arbitrator for the Fresno County Bar Association.

Memories of his days at SJCL are positive and James is gratified by the personal and professional success of his classmates.

Don Forbes

Following graduation, Don worked a couple of years as a research attorney for the Fresno County Superior Court. Reviewing, analyzing and discussing law and motion matters with Judge Hollis Best was an invaluable experience. Judge Best introduced Don to his old firm, Helon & Manfredo LLP, where Don was hired in May, 1981. There Don joined his classmate and study group partner, Marvin T. Helon. Marv's father was another one of the special mentors that helped him develop as a lawyer.

Don's practice emphasizes, if anything, general civil and business litigation.

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Over the years, he has handled cases involving real estate, personal injury, agribusiness, trusts, estates and some debtor litigation in bankruptcy. One of the really remarkable things about his years in practice has been the stability of their law firm. The firm has always emphasized the profession and obligation to the client rather than the business. Don has been very fortunate to learn the “practice” of law from Marvin Helon and Donald Manfredo, not to mention partners, Marv, John McDaniel and Nick Lucich.

Don remarried a few years ago and his wife, Kim, and he enjoy travel, aerobics, some biking and working together on their home. They are involved with church, preparing lunches at Poverello House and other outreach projects. Don also helps Kim in her civic work with disadvantaged/ at risk children in an after school reading program. Don continues to serve Fresno County Superior Court as a pro tem settlement judge and mediator.

Don has a number of memories from law school days and working at the library on the old Pacific College campus. Of course, one of the most memorable was the elation he felt when he saw the grades posted, not for the bar exam, but for the first year finals. He never thought he was going to fail at anything until that first year at law school. He is also fond of a “Dicta” photograph of his block against a Humphrey’s Law School defender as he was about to grab the flag on John Suhr. (Gary Smith’s smile in the background still makes me chuckle about the “hit.”) Another memory is when Dan Koontz saved him from being arrested at a post exam party. With one year of law under his belt he confronted police officers responding to a disturbance call for late night noise. When told that certain actions were about to be taken against another classmate, Don proudly announced to the officers: “You can’t do that! I know the law!!” Dan came to his rescue, calmed everyone down, and promised to drive Don home.

Kathi Kesselman

Kathi is a sole practitioner whose practice is limited to wills, trusts, and probate. She has been a Wills and Trust instructor for SJCL for the past 15 years.

Kathi has been married for 34 years to Mike Kesselman, a clinical psychologist. They have a daughter, Katie, who is employed as a chemist at San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant in San Clemente. Their son, Michael, is in college.

They love to travel, especially to emerging nations. They have had the opportunity to visit China, India and Australia (last Christmas). Brazil is next on their list.

Kathi enjoys gardening and any home repair that she can do herself. She loves her electric screw driver.

Kathi belonged to a serious group of law students: Judy Evans, Georgia York, Sylvia Stewart, Tom Giovacchini and herself. A “big event” for them occurred when someone had a birthday and Kathi baked a cake, when she and Judy indulged in fast food before the finals, when she and Georgia went to yard-sales on Saturday, or when they were studying for the Bar at Sylvia’s Fresno apartment and caught a Peeping Tom.

There were wonderful weekends at Sylvia Stewart’s home in Paso Robles with Judy Evans, Georgia York, Tom Giovacchini, Dan Stewart and Kathi’s husband, Mike. The visits usually included a trip to a melodrama theatre. The evening ended with a stop at a hot spring for a little hot tub action. Life was so simple and wonderful then.

The most significant event was when the five of them, - Sylvia, Judy, Georgia, Tom and Kathi - passed the bar exam the first time. In those days the quickest information was obtainable by viewing the passing names posted on the door of the State Bar in San Francisco. Sylvia and her husband,

Dan, volunteered for the job. The rest of the group were all at Kathi’s apartment waiting for the word. Dan called with the code “piece of cake!”. That meant they all passed. It was a wonderful moment.

One thing Kathi does not remember is the dining a la carte that goes on today. No one ate, snacks or meals, or drank, water or coffee, in the classroom. Gum chewing was only for chippies. She never ceases to be amazed at the aromas that permeate the air in her Wills and Trusts classroom today.

Michele Marie Belanger McNair

Michele went to work for the District Attorney’s office just after graduation and worked there until 1986. She decided it was now or never to open her own practice, so she did. She mostly did plaintiff personal injury work. She is now semi-retired and loves doing mediation and peacemaking. She is a certified arbitrator and a Settlement Officer for the Court. Michele is involved with the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program and the Institute of Conflict Management and Mediation through Fresno Pacific University. Her paralegal is her golden retriever, Marley, whom she says does a great job.

Michele is passionate about photography. She owns Salt Cay Photography, in the Turks and Caicos Islands. She is an accomplished author, photographer and historian. Michele writes about the history, food and cultural influences of the islands and its people. She enjoys visiting and videoing the stories of aged salt rakers and recording their little known history. Michele has published feature articles and magazine covers in *Times of the Island* (www.timepub.tc) She is also working on a book proposal that is a daunting task. The proposed book will be about the historical and cultural influences of the historic Turks Islands. She will be going there this summer to work on this project.

Michele also teaches Photoshop, Lightroom and photography in Fresno and through classes at the Turks and Caicos National Museum on Grand Turk Island.

Michele now splits time between her Fresno home and her home on Salt Cay, Turks and Caicos.

Michele has fond memories of her very large class, which was held at the Pacific University campus. She recalls the nights that Mike Meyer, Glen Gates, Jim Donabed and several others took turns napping in the back of the classroom and watching out for each other. The class was very close knit. Going to The Outpost was a popular pastime. Looking back at those days brings back very special memories for her.

Sylvia Dorsey Stewart

Sylvia practiced general law until 1998 and is now semi-retired. She works as a Public Defender under contract for San Luis Obispo. She has had the pleasure of working under another classmate, Stephen Sefton, who is currently her judicial officer. They have maintained a great relationship since their days at SJCL.

Sylvia has been married to Daniel for 51 years. Daniel runs his own civil engineering firm. They have 3 grandchildren that live in El Dorado Hills. Daniel and Sylvia commute often to visit the grandchildren and participate in their activities. The oldest two grandkids ride English jumpers so they have many competitions to attend. The youngest grandchild loves dance and music so they enjoy her recitals.

Sylvia and Daniel also share an annual tradition with their family and friends of having Thanksgiving together in Lake Tahoe. They also travel often to Connecticut to visit family.

Sylvia has many classmates that remain close friends – Kathi Kesselman, Georgia York, Judy Evans, Tom Giovacchini and Stephen Sefton. She

is thankful for those friendships that started so long ago.

James D. Weakley

James is the managing partner of The Law Firm of Weakley, Ratliff, Arendt & McGuire. He has been representing public entities since 1978. He is admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, the United States District Court for the Central District of California, and all courts of the State of California, including the California Supreme Court. He has argued cases in state and federal appellate courts, which have resulted in published decisions.

Jim's career focus has been defending public entities and their employees. He handles complex high profile cases involving various aspects of public entity liability, including police liability, correctional liability, child protective services liability, medical malpractice, construction litigation, dangerous condition of public property, employment litigation and civil rights litigation. His clients have included elected and other public figures, including judges, district attorneys, sheriffs, chiefs of police, and heads of public agency departments.

Jim is a member of the Litigation Section of the California State Bar, the Fresno County Bar Association, the Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada, the Defense Research Institute

The pleasure of your company is requested at the first

Barrister's Ball

*Dinner & Dance to benefit
San Joaquin College of Law*



Saturday, March 8, 2008

*6:00 pm
Fresno City Hall
2600 Fresno Street*

*For your Pleasure, a five course dinner
with wine pairings will be prepared and served by
James Overbaugh and the staff of Erna's Elderberry House*

Tickets are \$150 per person or a table of ten for \$1500.

For more information,
contact Robin Leppo at 559/323-2100 or
Eddie Fanucchi at 559/268-8771
or visit our website at www.sjcl.edu

Black Tie Optional

Seating is limited.

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Government Liability Committee, the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), the Federal Bar Association, the California Association of Joint Powers Authorities (CAJPA), and the Public Agency Risk Managers Association (PARMA). He served three terms on the Board of Directors for the Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada. Jim has also served on the California State Bar Committee on Federal Courts and the Civil Subcommittee. He is the current National Representative and past President of the San Joaquin Valley Chapter of ABOTA. He also serves as Vice President of the San Joaquin Valley Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. He was a founding member of the Central Valley Chapter of PARMA. Jim also serves as an arbitrator, mediator and judge pro tem for the Fresno County Superior Court.

The Honorable Georgia York

Georgia entered the legal profession with the Fresno County Public Defender in 1979, served as Fresno County Counsel from 1979-1990, and as a Research Attorney for the Fifth District Court of Appeal 1990-1992. She was then appointed as California Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board Administrative Law Judge in 1992 where she currently serves.

Georgia's sweetheart of 20 years and RFL (reason for living) is Tom Riggs, former professor at SJCL and recently retired Clovis City Attorney. She has one daughter, Erin Henderson, who is graduating this spring from UC Davis. Tom has three sons, Andrew (a student at Fresno State), Christopher (a graphic designer in San Francisco), and Aaron (a business owner in Seattle who is married and has two young sons).

Georgia loves to travel and has been fortunate to travel with their children to Italy, Greece, Turkey, Ireland, London, Canada, and around the U.S. Tom's marathon running has taken

them to Boston several times, to St. George, Utah and last year to Stockholm. After the Stockholm Marathon, they enjoyed seeing Norway and Copenhagen. Georgia is hoping Tom will do some more international marathons so they can see some new sights. Tom and Georgia purchased a condo in Sandpoint, Idaho and are looking forward to spending lots of time there in retirement. Tom keeps Georgia moving by dragging her off to ski, hike and run. It's helpful to beat back old "Father Time."

Georgia has very fond memories of SJCL. They were at Pacific College with the "giants" (John Loomis and Dan Eymann) who started the law school. They had such a collegial group of students; it was a wonderful experience for her. Kathi Kesselman introduced Georgia to the joy of yard sales. They were so poor; they would allocate \$5 to spend on a Saturday morning of yard sales. Georgia would drive and Kathi would navigate. They made some great finds. Sylvia Stewart was so generous to purchase Kathi, Georgia, and Judy Evans (Deertrack) each a dress for graduation. Georgia remembers happy times hanging out with Tom and his late brother, Bob Giovacchini. Bob was a riot; those two could keep you laughing for hours. They had both been bartenders before law school, so they both had outrageous stories and jokes to tell. The group ate lots of late-night meals at Cedar Lanes.

1988 Bethany Baker

Bethany has been a Research Attorney with the Fifth District Court of Appeal since September 1988. She has been extremely fortunate to work for two great justices: Justice Marvin Baxter (now at the California Supreme Court), and Justice Thomas Harris. Bethany continues to enjoy the constant challenge of her work on complex civil and criminal appeals.

Over the past 10 years, Bethany has been greatly involved with the Fresno Grand Opera in a volunteer (and non-singing) capacity. This has led to some interesting moments - taking tenor Jose Carreras to a party at Parma restaurant, escorting the great Placido Domingo to an interview at KMJ radio, and most recently, treating soprano Renee Fleming to dinner at George's Shish Kebab.

Bethany has stayed in touch with classmates Diane Lushbough and Russ Reynolds, and has fond memories of her study group. One of Bethany's most vivid memories at SJCL was the special civil procedure review session Judge Wanger conducted for her graduating class just before the bar exam in which he reviewed the entire curriculum without notes, just using the casebook's table of contents as his guide--an incredible experience! Bethany is still a devoted fan and season ticket holder of the San Francisco Giants, and still waits for them to win the World Series.

Ellen Jahn

Ellen is concluding her 8th year as a Deputy County Counsel for Monterey County. Ellen's family includes two sons, Benjamin and Gregory. Benjamin was adopted a mere 6 months after she passed the bar. He is now a student at Monterey Peninsula College and works at Radio Shack. His younger brother, Gregory, is a Junior at Seaside High School and was featured in the Monterey County Herald (newspaper) as All-County linebacker in 2007.

In 2002, Ellen received a "Community Activism Award" from BAYMEC (a lesbian/gay/bi/trans political group) for organizing a group of 12 employees to press Monterey County to provide domestic partner benefits. Ellen's fiancée is a resident of Pennsylvania and they are working on a plan to "close the gap" of distance between them.

Ellen photographs and scrapbooks frequently winning her awards at the

Monterey County Fair, including Best of Show (scrapbook) in 2006 and First Place (photograph) People category, 2007. She enjoys the outdoors and sports activities of all kinds, She serves as Secretary of her church board (The Christian Church of Pacific Grove, Disciples of Christ).

Ellen has been involved in Boy Scouts for over 10 years with Troop 134. Her older son, Benjamin, was awarded the Eagle Scout rank in 2007. She serves on the Troop Committee, has been popcorn “Kernal,” and is currently Advancement Chair. Ellen was acting Scoutmaster at a week’s summer camp (oh, the stories she could tell).

When asked about her SJCL days she recalled being in the “meat locker” classroom on Shields Ave., listening to Judge Caeton on Criminal Law and Procedure. Everyone was chronically freezing from the A/C that had 2 speeds - “on” or “off.” She remembers time spent going to San Diego with Bethany Baker and Renee Turner Sample for the Roger Traynor Moot Court competition and the many attorneys and judges who helped them prepare and practice. Of course, there was studying for the bar with Bob Shinn, who coached her on Criminal Law while Ellen helped him with Con law. She remembers being in a class with members that included 2 Renee’s, 2 Russell’s, 2 Glen’s, a Craig and a Greg, an Allen and an Ellen, and 2 women with Lane in their names - one a first name and the other surname. Without Jan Maus she never would have survived Tax.

Rene Turner Sample

Rene was born and raised in Fresno. She graduated magna cum laude from California State University, Fresno in 1983 and with distinction from San Joaquin College of Law in 1988. Admitted to the California bar in 1988, Rene spent eight years as a litigator with McCormick, Barstow, Sheppard,

Wayte & Carruth, specializing in a civil tort practice.

In 1996, she opened the firm of Sample & Birch, trial attorneys for Allstate Insurance. In 2000, Rene’ and Stephen R. Cornwell, who had been her senior partner at the McCormick firm, opened Cornwell & Sample, a small plaintiff’s firm specializing in civil trial practice.

Rene was recently admitted as the first female member of the Central Valley Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, an organization of litigation attorneys who are selected based upon trial experience.

Rene was an adjunct faculty member at San Joaquin College of Law for ten years where she taught the Civil Trial Advocacy course and was once voted Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year.

Rene is married to Scott Sample. They married during her first year of law school. Scott is the manager of the Madera Fairgrounds and plays a mean game of golf. They have two children - Scotty, age 20, who was born during Rene’s last year of law school, and Shay, age 18, a senior at Clovis West High School. Rene’s current interests include mentoring troubled teens, traveling to watch her daughter’s many sporting events, and, although not often enough, traveling to attend concerts – preferably 80’s rock.

Rene’s favorite memories from SJCL are her professors, most of whom were practicing lawyers and judges. They taught her not only what she needed to know to pass the bar, but also, more importantly, by example, how to be a respected member of our legal community. A close second on the favorite memory list are her fellow students who are now her colleagues. It is an unbelievable opportunity to be taught by and sit side by side as students with those who are such an important part of your career.

1998 Mark Bacciarini

Mark is employed by the Merced County District Attorney’s Office as a Deputy District Attorney. He went to the office in 2000 after a year and half in private practice with a small Merced law firm. Mark has a general felony trial assignment with the office, and is handling special assignment homicides and child molestation cases frequently. Last spring, Mark co-prosecuted Cuitlahuac “Tao” Rivera along with District Attorney Larry D. Morse II. Rivera was convicted of murdering Merced City Police Officer Stephan Gray and was sentenced to death.

Mark is married to wife, Lynda, and lives with his son, Michael, 12, and two stepdaughters, Katie, 21, and Haley, 16. Katie (Gates) is currently a first year student at SJCL. Mark’s interests are his family, playing golf and fly fishing.

Mark remains active in the high school band arena, serving as a judge for various contests around the State.

As far as SJCL memories, perhaps the most memorable is the encouragement and attention from the faculty. Once out in the “real” world, if you can call this “real”, Mark has come to appreciate the quality of the education he received. All of his colleagues think he is nuts when he tells them how much he enjoyed law school. Mark finds that is a rare sentiment.

Greg Blevins

In January 2000 Greg started Blevins Law Firm. He practices mostly criminal defense in Tulare and Kings County. Greg is currently under contract with Kings and Tulare Counties to represent indigent criminal defendants in both counties. Greg recently divorced and has two girls from his first marriage – Kelsey, 15 years old, and Rachele, 17 years old. Kelsey helps in the business answering phones and filing paperwork.

Continued on Page 10

Greg is working on a joint venture with his sister to expand her vehicle damage appraisal business throughout California. Right now her coverage area is basically Bakersfield to Modesto. They expect to cover the entire state by 2010. This involves negotiating with insurance companies, hiring new employees, and contracting with independent contractors in various locations throughout the state.

During law school Greg was involved in the Small Claim Advisory Service. In private practice, he bid on and won the contracts to provide the Small Claim Advisory Service in Tulare, El Dorado, Amador, Inyo, and Colusa Counties. Greg had help from SJCL students and students from the College of the Sequoias (COS) paralegal program. However, he became busy with criminal defense work and did not renew the contracts in Tulare, El Dorado, or Amador counties.

Greg's time at SJCL was mostly a blur. He was going through his first divorce, getting custody of his two girls, and trying to work - all while starting law school. There was a humorous moment when, in moot court practice, Tim Cox - rather than argue his case, found it was more beneficial to his client to settle. Before that Greg, had never heard of anyone settling a case in moot court!

Kimberly L. Mayhew

Kim has worked for Caswell, Bell, & Hillison LLP since 2005. Prior to that she spent eight years practicing consumer protection law with William M. Krieg. She worked for Bill Krieg as a law clerk while attending SJCL.

Kim is married to Don and they have three children. Genny is 19 and attending the University of Miami on a volleyball scholarship. Ted is 16 and a sophomore at Clovis High School. Trey is 9 and is into every sport known

to man. They keep very busy with the kids' sports. Kim enjoys baseball, volleyball and running.

While attending SJCL, Kim was awarded the Leon S. Peters Leadership Scholarship and the Woman Lawyer Scholarship. She continues to serve each year as a judge to support the George A. Hopper Moot Court competition. Kim has also been very active in the SJCL Alumni Association, acting as President for three of the past five years. Kim was elected to sit on the SJCL Board of Trustees as the Alumni Representative for 2008. Kim is also active with Fresno County Women Lawyers and is a Dry Creek Elementary School booster.

Kim has fond memories of her study partner, Jay Felkins. He once started to brief a case in Contracts class with: "This case is about a breach of contract." The instructor responded: "Yes, ironically, most of them are in this class." That brought a roar from the class. Kim also recalls learning hearsay the hard way in Evidence... it took until after the exam for the light bulb to come on for most of the class.

William Parry

A lifelong Valley resident and native, William "Bill" Parry graduated from Fresno State in 1995, magna cum laude, and immediately entered SJCL. While at SJCL Bill was a member of the student bar, and a two time winner of the Leon S. Peters Leadership Award.

Upon graduating as a member of the Law Review from SJCL in 1998, Bill worked from 1998-2001 as an Administrative Hearing Officer for the City of Visalia, and Visalia Police Department. He also worked from 1999 to 2001 as a criminal defense litigator with the Kapetan Brothers Law Firm. Bill is now the senior associate for the

Sacramento and Hanford based law firm of Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP, where he has worked since 2001. Bill specializes in criminal defense, family law, unlawful detainers, immigration and civil litigation.

Bill married UnChong Nickelson of Seattle on July 1, 2000. UnChong is a civil engineer with Kings County, where they make their home. They are blessed with two beautiful boys, Evan William Parry, four, and Owen Glyndwr Unkyu Parry, 10 months. For several years, Bill has been the lead singer and 'front man' of the prestigious and award-winning rock band, "Dead Sexy," comprised of himself and local professionals; they have performed all over California. He is also the lead singer and front man of the rock band "Chick Magnet," with another local attorney.

For the past three years, Bill has been the President of the Kings County Bar Association. He currently serves as Vice President of the Kings County Fair Board, a board on which he has served for five years. For the last three years he has been on the Board of Directors for the Lemoore High School Foundation for Educational Excellence, his alma mater. Bill is also an active member of the Welsh-American Society of Central California.

When asked to recall a fond (and printable) SJCL memory, Bill immediately recalled being pulled out of class by the Dean for running the Welsh Flag up the Clovis Memorial District's flag pole located in the park in front of the school. "It looks like, and I genuinely thought it was SJCL's flagpole!" Bill claims he narrowly avoided expulsion by explaining that he was merely, rightfully celebrating Sir Tom Jones' birthday that day, being a proper Welshman. (The Dean states she has no memory of this event.)

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Dispelling the Myth...

As the cost of higher education rises from year to year, SJCL stays true to its course of providing quality legal education at an affordable cost. Unfortunately, many people believe that tuition alone covers the cost to operate this distinguished facility and educate our students. In actuality donor contributions and grant funding are an integral part of the equation. With that said, we are preparing for our spring Annual Fund appeal which will, again this year, challenge each of our alumni classes to give back. The class with the most participation and the highest total dollars contributed will be recognized. Make sure your class is added to the prestigious Classathon donor plaque in SJCL's main hallway, and leave your 'mark' on the school for future classes to follow.

I want to say a resounding 'thank you' to all our donors who give so generously to scholarships here at SJCL. We were able to offer 22 donor scholarships, 3 of which were brand new this year. Scholarships are a great way to give back and ensure a legacy for current and future students.

With Regards,



Robin Leppo
Director of Institutional Advancement



Members of the Advancement Staff at the Donor Wall Reception

(L-R)

Mark Enns, Marketing Manager,
Joyce Morodomi, Special Events Coordinator,
Robin Leppo, Director of Institutional Advancement,
Kasi Welte, Institutional Advancement Associate

Alumnae Sworn in for the Fresno County Women Lawyers Board

On January 23, 2008, the Honorable Hilary Chittick, former adjunct faculty, was on hand at Venezian Italian Restaurant to swear in Kathleen McKenna (Law '99) as the incoming 2008 Fresno County Women Lawyers President and Michele West (Law '95) as member at large. The luncheon meeting set forth the ambitious plans the group has for the upcoming year. They hope to have a website up and running soon and are excited about increasing their membership.



(L-R) **Michelle West** (Law '95), member at large; **Lenore Schreiber**, Treasurer; **Elana Landau**, member at large; **Mia Giacomazzi**, Vice-President; and **Kathleen McKenna** (Law '99), President; and the **Honorable Hilary Chittick**. Not shown was Lynette Gonzalez, secretary and Christine Levin, member at large.



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