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San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

Volume XX, Number 2

June 2009

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2nd Annual Barrister's Ball

The 2nd annual Barrister's Ball was held on May 2, 2009 at the Fresno Art Museum surrounded by the art of famed painter Robert Ogata, artist Kathryn Kain, and the mixed media works of Aung Aung Taik.

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

Attendees were treated to a feast of treasures prepared by Chef Chris Shackelford of Trelio Restaurant. The evening was serenaded by the Joe Lenigan Band with dancing following suit.

This year's event was the beginning of the law school's yearlong celebration of its 40th anniversary. The guests of honor were SJCL's founders, the Honorable Oliver Wanger and John Loomis, who was unable to attend. Dean Jan Pearson introduced Judge

Wanger who then regaled attendees of how San Joaquin College of Law came to be and re-lived some memorable teaching moments of his past.

SJCL would like to thank all of our sponsors who supported this year's Barrister's Ball and to everyone who attended. Over \$20,000 was raised to help support the operations of SJCL. A very special thanks to Ball co-chairs, Eddie Fanucchi (Law '95) and Lisa Smittcamp (Law '95) for their hours

of dedication and support to this event, and to all the members of the Ball planning committee: Rich Caglia (Law '99), Nancy Flynn, Kevin Hansen (Law '85), Chuck (Law '89) and Laura Magill, Albert Ramirez (Law '96), and Melissa White (Law '96). Each of them gives new meaning to the words "tenacity and perseverance"—thank you for making this year's event a huge success!

We hope to see you all again next year!

[More photos page 8](#)



Photos by Eddie Melikian of Fresno Magazine, Ronald Webb, and Carlyn Robbins

San Joaquin College of Law is a unique institution. It currently holds state accreditation from the California Committee of Bar Examiners and regional accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). It is the ONLY free-standing law school in California with these two accreditations – free-standing meaning it is not affiliated with a larger parent institution.

In addition, SJCL aspires to American Bar Association accreditation – in other words, a desire to be even better. As graduate David Hogue (Law '93) once said, "You never stand still. You either move forward or you move backward."

These accrediting institutions have very different visions of their responsibilities and, accordingly, ask for very different functions from an institution. The Committee of Bar Examiners (COBE) is focused on performance of a school's students on the bar examination as the principal barometer of success and consumer protection – both of the student and the general public. COBE regulations impact virtually every aspect of a school's operation – from how many units of legal writing instruction can be required to who can be placed on probation.

WASC, on the other hand, believes skills outcomes demonstrate a quality legal education. Can the institution demonstrate that its students are attaining the learning objectives the school has delineated as important?

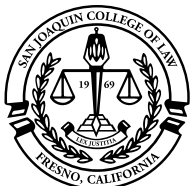
For a law school, this must be proven by means other than grades and bar exam passage rates.

The creation of mechanisms, other than bar passage and grades, to demonstrate skill attainment is very difficult. SJCL faculty are experimenting with mechanisms they have invented with some fascinating results. For example, we can demonstrate that almost all first year students, even those who are academically excluded, dramatically increase their analytical abilities during the first year. Now we must determine why they fail in spite of that and attempt to adjust the curriculum accordingly. It is a tremendously enlightening and effective process.

Historically, American Bar Association accreditation has focused on inputs. What is the square footage of a school's building and library? How many volumes and titles are in the library? How many full-time faculty teach at the school? What is the student to faculty ratio? A committee of the ABA has been studying whether this continues to be the appropriate

way to evaluate a school for accreditation. The Committee's interim report recommends moving to a model that emphasizes outcomes rather than inputs, using WASC-type accreditation as one model. The ABA Committee recommends that practical skills (including ethics) should become more important outputs, indicating that new generations of law students need more teaching and experience in clinical settings. There is widespread agreement that law school graduates are generally insufficiently prepared to practice law.

Greater emphasis on practical skills in law school may dictate less instruction time in the fundamental law. But the ultimate key to practicing law in California is passing the bar exam and the bar exam still emphasizes knowledge of the rules of law. Hence, in retaining its current accreditations and aspiring to more, there is an ongoing tension with which SJCL faculty will have to grapple in curriculum evolution over the next few years as they continue to try to do the best for SJCL students and graduates.



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SJCL Alumni Hall of Fame

The ranks of graduates of the San Joaquin College of Law have permeated not only the legal community but also the greater community with skilled lawyers, judges, business executives and community leaders.



By Kevin Hansen (Law '85)

Graduates of SJCL are, by dint of hard work, successful but not boastful. In Ecclesiastes, a wise author wrote of great leaders that "...they were honored in their generations, and were the glory of their times."

In 2007, SJCL inaugurated an Alumni Hall of Fame by enshrining two exemplary alumni: the late Ernest Spray Kinney ('75) and the late Theodore Forrest, Jr. ('77). In 2008, the SJCL Alumni Hall of Fame, in a moving ceremony in Fresno's gleaming federal courthouse, enshrined a new class consisting of Michael Marderosian ('77) and The Hon. Gary Austin ('76). The plaques for each of these honored graduates may be viewed at the law school.

In October, the Alumni Hall of Fame, Class of 2009, will be enshrined. As in 2008, a distinguished nominating committee comprised of representatives of the Bench, the Bar, the Alumni Association and the law school will convene to assemble a list of nominees for the Class of 2009. Only 2 nominees will be selected for inclusion in this prestigious assemblage.

The nominating committee is being chaired by SJCL Alumni Association Board member, Kevin Hansen ('85). Please watch for ballots which will be sent to you later in the year so you may cast your vote for the Alumni Hall of Fame Class of 2009. The date and location of the 2009 Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremony will be publicized in the near future.

With summer upon us and the class of 2009 busily studying for July's bar exam, we are gearing up for fall's activities which are just around the corner.

We have three important events coming up in the Fall. First, in September is Senior Citizen's Law Day, an event which provides vital assistance to people truly in need of our help. Marcella Downing is chairing this event. Next is the annual Got MCLE? This event is worth far more than the cost of membership in the Association. We have great speakers and informative topics. You do not want to miss out! Nitza Coleman is chairing this event. The third event, chaired by Kevin Hansen, is the Hall of Fame. Better yet, we could use your help, so please contact either me, Joan Lassley or the event chair.

If you were at the recent graduation ceremonies, you know that it was yet another example of the many amazing people who chase their dreams at SJCL and of the wonderful staff and faculty who make it all possible. Of course, it is also where the school turns the graduating class over to us and, thanks to the efforts of Judy Rogers, Nitza Coleman, Erik Petersen and Teresa Petty, this year nearly every graduate stopped by our welcome table where they each received a small gift bag filled with goodies that we hope they will find useful as they prepare for July's bar exam.

If there is something you think that the Alumni Association should be doing, let us know. Thank you for your support of the Alumni Association. I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming activities.

Sincerely,

Scott Jones (Law '07)

2009 Alumni Association President

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, Kathi K. Kesselman, Jeremy Lusk, 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.

2009 Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament

It was a glorious day to play golf on March 28, 2009 when the Seventh Annual Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament at Sherwood Forest Golf Club kicked off.

By **Joan Lassley**, 2009 co-chair

Again this year we had amazing sponsors and would like to thank: Eagle Sponsor – Dr. Mark Wiseman & the Visalia OB-GYN Medical Assn; Birdie Sponsors – Visalia OB-GYN, Baker, Manock & Jensen, Garrett Construction and Ray Morgan Company; Tee Sponsors - Law Offices of Rod McClelland, Richard Ciummo & Associates, Dowling, Aaron and Keeler and Kim Thayer & Assoc.

We also want to thank donors Dianna and Cyrus Setoodeh, Riverbend Golf Club, Judy Rogers, Law Offices of Howk and Downing, Riverbend Golf Club, California Telephone Access Program, Hernandez & Ramirez, Allure Salon, San Joaquin College of Law, Children's Musical Theatre, BodyWise, Kathy McKenna, Rich Caglia, Giovanni's Café, Pro-Core Fitness, Susan Stiltz Landscape Design, Sherrie Flynn and Joan Lassley for their generous raffle prizes.

The winning team from SJCL students and alumni was, Bo Koenig, DJ Brickey, Alex Gayton and Glenn LoStracco. They won a round for their foursome donated by Ft. Washington Country Club. The second place team was David Burnett, Brad Stevens, Bob Stevens and Milt Blankenburg. Winning a foursome donated by Copper River Country Club. Men's longest drive winner was winner Alex Gayton. The women's longest drive was Sue Hedman who also took home the closest to the pin award. These winners received gift cards from Agave Grill.

Many thanks to all our volunteers who made this event a great success: Kathy McKenna (Law '99), co-chair of the event, Kim Mayhew (Law '98), Nitza Coleman (Law '03) and her husband Jeff, Marcie Downing (Law '05) and husband Robert, and SJCL students Katy Phillips (Law '09) and Carey Hartssock (Law '10). Our special thanks go to the wonderful staff at Sherwood Forest Golf Club, who always provide cheerful assistance, as well as a beautiful venue and awesome weather!

Make sure to watch for next year's tournament!



Kathy McKenna (Law '99), *Event chair*, with First Place Team **Glenn LoStracco** (Law '88), **DJ Brickey** (Law '09), **Alex Gaytan** (Law '11), and **Bo Koenig** (Law '10)



Second Place Team **Brad Stevens** (Law '99), **David Burnett**, **Kathy McKenna** (Law '99), *Event chair*, **Milt Blankenburg** and **Bob Stevens**



Registration: **Katy Phillips** (Law '09), **Kathy McKenna** (Law '99), *Event Co-chair*, **Joan Lassley**, *Staff*, **Kim Mayhew** (Law '98) and **Marcie Downing** (Law '05)



Gates & Gates team, **Jennifer Byers** (Law '09),
Alex Takeda, **Kristen Gates** (Law '08) and **Tonya Lee**



Garrett Construction team, **Rick Horowitz** (Law '06), **Dale Winn**,
Daniel Martin (Law '05), and **Daniel Guerra**



Clovis City team, **John Lovejoy**,
Tim Barker, **Paige Holcomb**,
and **Ron Fujinari**



Baker, Manock and Jensen team, **Deborah Coe** (Law '91),
John Micheli, **Mark King** (Law '05) and **Robert Howk**



Ramirez & Hernandez team, **Frank Ramirez**,
Ruben Rocha, **Ruben DeSantiago**,
and **Ed Castro, Jr.**



Eric Green foursome, **Brian Hartford**,
Eric Green (Law '76), **Mark Meador**
and **Aaron Green**



McKenna team, **Matt Webb**, **Ron Webb**,
David McHenry, and **Kathy McKenna** (Law '99)



Judy Rogers team, **Mark Burger**, **Jamie Scarano**,
Judy Rogers, (Law '04) and **William McLaughlin**

Alumni reach out to prospective students

San Joaquin College of Law hosted an Alumni Panel Forum for students who are considering law school to meet with SJCL alumni.

By **Diane Steel**, *Director of Admissions*

Introducing prospective students to a panel of SJCL alumni and providing them with the opportunity to learn about different career opportunities was the focus of the Alumni Panel Forum. Over 60 prospective students attended. Allowing students to see themselves in the shoes of San Joaquin College of Law graduates was the heart of this event. The face-to-face communication between Dean Jan Pearson, alumni, current students and prospective students was an experience several prospective law students needed to decide to pursue a law degree. The panelists represented very diverse areas of practice but all expressed one thing in common. They described their work as a “helping profession”.

The panel consisted of Deborah Boyett, *Corporate and Business Law, Trusts and Estates, Probate and Real Property*; Greg Fox, *Criminal Defense and Personal Injury Attorney*; Mick Marderosian, *Civil Trial Attorney*; Lisa J. Nilmeier, *Legal Counsel, Pappas Telecasting*; Victor Salazar, *County Clerk/ Registrar of Voters* and Michelle West, *Deputy District Attorney*. Dean Pearson facilitated the panel, which overwhelmingly communicated the slogan that is associated with the law school “one degree, a world of options”.

Thank you to the alumni who served on the panel and to all of you that continuously see talent in others and



(L-R) **Greg Fox** (Law '05), **Victor Salazar** (Law '93), **Mick Marderosian** (Law '77), **Jan Pearson, Dean**, **Lisa J. Nilmeier** (Law '87), **Deborah Boyett** (Law '01) and **Michelle West** (Law '95)

Law Forums

Wednesday, July 15, 7–9PM or Thursday, August 27, 7–9PM

These forums are a great way to learn about law school, from courses offered to admission requirements and a great opportunity to ask questions to a panel of currently enrolled students.

LSAT Forum

Tuesday, August 18, 7–9PM

A free session on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) led by SJCL Dean Jan Pearson on strategies for deciphering the logic and analytical thinking questions that comprise the LSAT.

encourage them to pursue a degree in this important profession. Please refer potential law students to SJCL by contacting me by email dsteel@sjcl.edu or

phone (559) 323-2100 ext 428. We offer free informational Law Forums each month.

Staff

Janice Pearson, Dean, **Sally Perring**, Dean of Academic Affairs, **Debbi Chacon**, Accounting Assistant, **Kristi Costa**, Head of Circulation, **Ken Coyle**, Manager of Information Systems, **Matthew Dillard**, Maintenance Assistant, **Mark Enns**, Marketing Manager, **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 Moore**, Administrative Assistant for Accounting, **Carlyn Robbins**, Administrative Assistant/ Receptionist, **Cynthia Robinson**, Head of Technical Services, **Rick Rodriguez**, Maintenance Supervisor, **Pete Rooney**, Law Librarian, **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

Fundamentals of Bankruptcy

On June 5, 2009 San Joaquin College of Law (SJCL) along with the Central California Bankruptcy Association (CCBA) held its annual Fundamentals of Bankruptcy seminar at the law school.

By **Kasi Welte**, *MCLE Coordinator*

With over 70 people in attendance, this year marked a sharp increase in the number of people interested in learning about bankruptcy law. In light of today's trying times, this program proved to be a timely topic for many legal practitioners. 6.5 hours of MCLE credit was available to attorneys and paralegals.

A special thank you to Michael Wilhelm, Esq. for his efforts in organizing speakers and creating the curriculum for this program. Speakers included T. Scott Belden, Esq., Peter Fear, Esq., Justin Harris, Esq., Robert Hawkins, Esq., David R. Jenkins, Esq., Rene Lastreto, II, Esq., Honorable W. Richard Lee, Mark L. Pope, Esq., Hilton Ryder, Esq., Honorable Whitney Rimel, Riley C. Walter, Esq., Leonard K. Welsh, Esq., and Michael L. Wilhelm., Esq.

The CCBA will be holding its 23rd Annual Bankruptcy Institute on September 17-18, 2009 at the Radisson Hotel in Fresno. Please mark your calendars for this important program.



Robert Hawkins, Esq. (Law '87), *Chapter 7 & 11 Trustee*, presenting on the Bankruptcy Estate and Exemptions.

In conjunction with the Bankruptcy Institute the CCBA will be hosting a golf tournament on September 16, 2009 at the Riverbend Golf Course. If you are interested in becoming a member of the CCBA or would like more information on the organization, please visit www.ccbankruptcy.org.

If you have ideas about future MCLE programs/topics or are interested in being a presenter, I would like to hear from you.

Please contact Kasi Welte at 559.323.2100 or kwelte@sjcl.edu



Honorable W. Richard Lee (Law '85) *United States Bankruptcy Judge, Eastern District* and **Mark L. Pope**, Esq. *Assistant U.S. Trustee* presenting on The Trustee's Role in Bankruptcy.

2ND Annual *Barrister's Ball*

CELEBRATING OUR 40TH
ANNIVERSARY & HONORING
OUR FOUNDERS
THE HONORABLE OLIVER WANGER
& MR. JOHN LOOMIS, ESQ.



SPONSOR LIST – PAGE 19 Dean Janice Pearson and Hon. Oliver Wanger



Eddie (Law '95) & Mimi Fanucchi



Albert Ramirez (Law '96), Margarita Martinez, and Scott Baly



BACK ROW (L-R) Stan Boone, Melissa White (Law '96), and Karen Boone
FRONT ROW (L-R) Bob & Nancy Whalen and James Terzian



Ross Borba, Jr. and Nancy Flynn



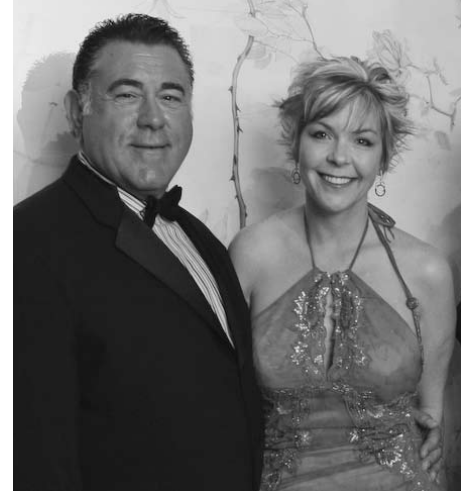
Lisa Smittcamp (Law '95)
and Sherrie Flynn (Law '05)



Greg (Law '05) & Diana Miskulin



STANDING (L-R) **Jim & Sharon Patterson** and **Dianna (Law '01) & Cyrus Setoodeh**
SEATED (L-R) **Andreas & Anna Borgeas** and **Shelly & John Shamshoian**



Hon. James (Law '89) & Toby Petrucelli



Brett Runyon (Law '86) and Mick Marderosian (Law '77)



Richard & Elizabeth (Law '95) Egan



Chuck (Law '89) & Laura Magill



Hon. Kimberley Nystrom-Geist (Law '92) & Rod Geist



Edward L. Fanucchi and Kathy Chandler (Law '94)



Mike & Debra Radavero winners of the infamous "Historic Wrench" raffle item

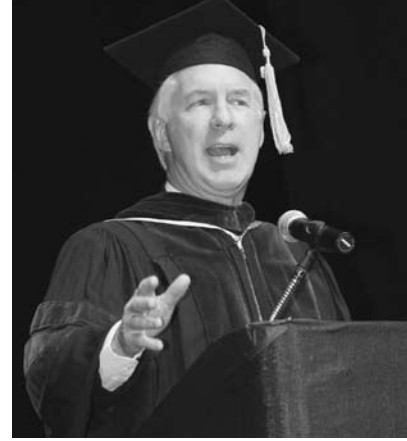
Congratulations to the 36th Graduating Class!

On May 30, 2009 San Joaquin College of Law celebrated its Thirty-Sixth Graduation at the William Saroyan Theater in Fresno. SJCL was honored to have Honorable Lawrence O'Neill, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, as commencement speaker. Rhea Yukawa Ikemiya delivered the Valedictorian address.

The students graduating at the top of their class with High Honors were, Alicia Lyn Hinton, Rhea Yukawa Ikemiya, and Kathleen M. Phillips. Students with Distinction were, Wendy Deborah Aguilar, Aaron Joaquin Aguirre, Bryce Yonehiro Hatakeyama, Adam Joseph Rodriguez, Steven Patrick Stadler, and Elizabeth Ellen Waldow.

Congratulations also go out to Jason D. Antoyan, Michael Joseph Arnold, Juan Rafael Avitia, Laura M. Bragg, Pavin Brar, Daniel Jackson Brickey, Jennifer Lee Byers, Crystal Maria Cabrera, Brandon Michael Collett, Katwyn Tiffany DeLaRosa,

Steven John Graham, Sherylyn A. Greer, Brande Lynn Gustafson, Lisa Marie Horton, Stephen Lawrence Labiak, Kelly E. Leslie, Lisa Marie Madden, Sean Michael Marjala, Robin R. Martin, Jennifer L. Nelson, Alexandra Belardinelli Noyes, Christopher Brandon Noyes, Rosalina Nunez, Sung Bae Park, L. Carmen Ramirez, Hulya Reshad, Jonathan Eaton Rooker, Lacey Nelson Sanchez, Matthew Charles Schmidt, Emily Harue Takao, Bryan Edward Tellalian, Joseph Roxford Tutelian, Valerie Joanne Velasco, Jordan Noah Widelock, Shon Thomas Wilson, Dennis B. Yamada, and Stephanie Carol Young.



Commencement Speaker **Honorable Lawrence O'Neill**, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California



Valedictorian **Rhea Yukawa Ikemiya**



Crystal Cabrera with her Grandmother **Petra Cabrera** and Aunt **Mary Rodriguez**



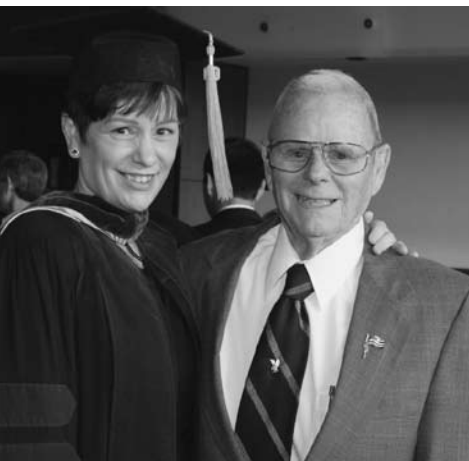
Matthew Schmidt with his mother **Charlene**, wife **Nicole**, and father **Dr. Russell Schmidt**



Steven Sadler with his Grandmother **La Mira Riddiough**, Sister and Brother-in-Law **Catherine & Dean Borg** and their children **Ethan** and **Alexa**.



BACK ROW (L-R) **Jordan Widelock, Matthew Schmidt, Steven Stadler, Lacey Nelson-Sanchez, Rosalinda Nunez, Bryan Tellalian, Kathleen Phillips, Emily Takao, Joseph Tutelian, Valerie Velasco, and Stephanie Young**
 FRONT ROW (L-R) **Shon Wilson and Bryce Hatakeyama**



Robin Martin with her father **Carlton**



(L-R) **Mike Yoshihara, Wendy Aguilar, Mary Thornton (Law '08), and Peter Wall (Law '08)**



Christopher & Alexandra Noyes



Sung Bae Park with Son **Benjamin** shaking **Dean Pearson's** hand.



(L-R) **Crystal Tressider, Benjamin Cann, Elizabeth Waldow, and Patricia & Ed Walls**

The Legacy Luncheons Continue!

By **Janice Pearson**, *Dean*

We have all enjoyed seeing you again and hearing about your amazing accomplishments. Please mark your calendars for the upcoming luncheons because we would love to see every one of you!

Class of 1995 – September 9

Class of 1997 – September 23

Class of 1998 – October 14

Class of 1999 – October 28

Class of 2000 – November 4

Please look for your invitation from me about three weeks before the scheduled date for your class. If you think we may not have an accurate address for any of your classmates, please let us know.

We will then take a break for the holidays. All the remaining classes will have luncheons scheduled January through May of 2010, culminating in the All-Class Reunion in fall of 2010 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the admission of the first SJCL class!



Class of 1990 & 1991

STANDING (L-R): Sally Perring, Faculty, Kevin O'Casey (Law '91), Terry Hillbloom (Law '91), Jan Pearson, Dean, Clinton Cummins (Law '90), Barbara Allison (Law '90), Sharon Madsen (Law '91), and Nancy Aten (Law '90)

SEATED (L-R): Deborah Coe (Law '91), Sheri Mount (Law '91), Mary (Katy) Rau (Law '91) and Jean Pinkerton (Law '91)

ALSO ATTENDING: Pat Cummins plus staff Robin Leppo and Joan Lassley



Class of 1992

STANDING (L-R): Ka'ren Ketedjian, Marlene Hubbell, Gilbert Fleming, Mark Blum, James Dubbels, Melanie O'Mara Taylor, Scott VanWagenen, Barbara Greaver, Jonathon Jones, Stanley Surabian, DDS, and Andrew Flanigan

SEATED (L-R): Hal Farley, Janice Pearson, Dean, Jackie Yates, Leah Cole, Rose Mohan, John Loomis, Founder and Board of Trustees, Laural Gerbrandt and Jere Mealer

ALSO ATTENDING: Sally Perring, Faculty, plus staff Joyce Morodomi, Robin Leppo, and Joan Lassley

The Legacy Luncheons have been a wonderful opportunity for SJCL alumni to reminisce and reconnect.



Class of 1993

STANDING (L-R): Sally Perring, *Faculty*, Victor Salazar, Tim Mazzela, John Loomis, *Founder and Board of Trustees*, John Devlin, Darryl Freedman, Jan Pearson, *Dean*, Geoffrey Sims, Stan Teixeira, Tom Zynda and David Hogue.

SEATED (L-R): Carla (Bourne) Khal, Rosemarie Rusca, Rissa Stuart, Kathy Marousek, and Marina Gonzales

ATTENDING BUT NOT PICTURED: Trudi Manfredo, plus staff, Joyce Morodomi, Jill Waller-Randles, Robin Leppo, and Joan Lassley



Class of 1994

STANDING (L-R): Sally Perring, *Faculty*, Paul Carpio, Kathy Chandler, Eloise Janzen, Rod McClelland, Galatea DeLapp, Brian Austin, and Richard Runcie

SEATED (L-R): Esmeralda Garcia, Jan Pearson, *Dean*, Rosemary McGuire, and Priscilla Craft

STAFF ALSO ATTENDING: Robin Leppo, Joyce Morodomi and Joan Lassley

Student Scholarship Banquet



Incoming SBA President **David Ibarra** with outgoing President **Steven Graham**



Karen Ray and **Hulya Alvidrez**



Lus Carmen Ramirez and **Eloise Janzen**



Adjunct Professor of the Year **Hon. Jonathan Conklin** with wife **Val**



(L-R) **Jonna Williams**, **Christina Widner**, **Tara Tarasen**, **Kyle Roberson**, and **Brianna Loyear**



Adam Rodriguez

Scholarships and Recipients

Albert Ramirez
Bail Bonds Scholarship
Ronald Weber

Alumni Association
Carolyn T. Mirviss Scholarship
Alicia Wrest

Alumni Association Spirit of SJCL
Carey Hartsock

Brown Scholarship
for Women and Minorities
Karen Ray

Clovis Soroptimist
Woman's Advocate Award
Cheri Wortham

Delta Theta Phi First Year Scholarship
Justin Loyear

Delta Theta Phi Scholarship
Erick Rhoan
Bryan Tellalian
Elizabeth Waldow

Elizabeth O'Neill
Memorial Scholarship
Stephanie Smittle

Ernest S. Kinney
Trial Lawyer Scholarship
Jesse Fretwell

The Founders' Scholarship
Alicia Hinton

James K & Carol Sellers Herbert
Scholarship
Lisa Cutts

Judy Wiseman Memorial Scholarship
Rhea Ikemiya

Kharazi Bar
Study Support Scholarship
Adam Rodriguez

Legal Edge Consumer Scholarship
David Ibarra

Leon S. Peters Leadership Awards
Janet Ballelos
Monica Bermudez
John Migliazzo
Elizabeth Morgan
Lus Carmen Ramirez

Robert F. & Kathryn S. Price
Scholarship
Amanda Bishop

SJCL Student Bar Association
Law Scholarship
Lisa Horton
Lacey Nelson
Kathleen Phillips

Theodore Forrest, Jr.
Memorial Scholarship
Bryce Hatakeyama

Woman Lawyer Scholarship
Heather Ward

Teachers of the Year
Full-Time – Larry Artenian
Adjunct – Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin

Students of the Year
First – Rachel Cartier
Second – David Ibarra
Third – Oliver Larrivee
Fourth – Lisa Horton

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

1979

R. Louis Gysler

R. Louis Gysler has pursued a dual occupation since graduating from SJCL. He has been a Professor and Coordinator of Construction Management in the Lyles College of Engineering at CSUF for the past 38 years. In addition, Louis carried out a solo law practice in the areas of Trust, Wills and Estate Planning for the past 30 years. He stopped advertising his law practice about twenty years ago and has been fortunate enough to continue in business through word of mouth referrals. R. Louis has been involved professionally and socially in a variety of community projects in both the areas of law and education. Prior to retiring from the University this past spring, he had the opportunity to be involved in the supervision of Construction Management student participation in the Fresno Extreme Makeover project. He now intends to continue in his law practice at a relaxed pace.

1989

Sue Cercone

Sue is a partner with Marderosian, Runyon, Cercone, Lehman and Armo in Fresno. She started with the firm as an associate attorney in May 1991. She says "Time has really flown."

Sue and her husband, Ronald, live in the country outside of Lemon Cove with their two Golden Retrievers, two cats and three horses.

Sue is on the Board of Governors for the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, San Joaquin Valley.

Sue and Ronald enjoy traveling. In recent years, they have discovered river cruises and have cruised the Yangtze, Danube, Nile and Seine Rivers. Sue has her private pilot's license and even took a few helicopter lessons which were a lot of fun. She also continues to ride and jump horses on a regular basis.

Sue has been a volunteer with Happy Trails for 14 years. It is a therapeutic riding academy in Visalia for individuals with a variety of physical, mental and emotional disabilities. Sue considers it a privilege to be associated with such a wonderful organization and group of people (and horses!).

Sue has such fond memories of her study group—Rick Monge, Randy Long, Chuck Magill and Janet Maus. "They were the best!"

Woodrow Edgar Nichols, Jr.

Woodrow thanks all of the judges who taught him how to learn and practice the law. In Woody's first-year Civil Procedure class with Ollie Wanger, before he became a federal judge, Ollie had just started teaching the class one evening when Judge Ardaiz entered the room looking for his missing podium. Ollie said not to worry and carried his own podium into Judge Ardaiz's classroom across the hall. He soon returned and walked up the center aisle wiping his hands as if he had just accomplished a great task. As he took his place behind the now podium-less table, he said, "You have just seen a practical demonstration in the care and feeding of judges; never forget it!" And Woody hasn't.

Woody was honored to clerk for Justice Pauline Hanson of the Fifth Ap-

pellate District Court of Appeal in the summer of 1986. Sally Perring taught him how to brief a memorandum for the judge. Justice Hanson was a truly wonderful woman and Woody got to meet all of the dedicated people at the Court. It was a great loss to the legal community when she passed away.

Judge Caeton taught them the Byzantine wanderings of criminal law and procedure in their second year and he recalls learning the intricacies of *Aquilar/Spinelli* even though it had been trashed a few years earlier by *Illinois v. Gates*, as well as Justice Rhenquist's Orwellian good faith exception in *United States v. Leon*, which appropriately came out in 1984. Woody finally got to have Judge Ardaiz in his third year evidence class and he must admit he laughed as much as he learned. (Judge Ardaiz was known affectionately among some of the students as Jokin' Jim.)

Woody also felt fortunate to clerk with Judge Myron Crocker in federal court after graduation. He was assigned to the death penalty cases that began pouring in after California revised its law. Judge Crocker was the best boss Woody ever worked for and recalls him leaving work some days at 3:30 p.m. and saying to him that he was a fool if Woody was still around fifteen minutes after he left. But Donna Korotie, Crocker's faithful secretary, always gave Woody the look, "Don't even think about it!" that brought Woody back down from his reverie. Woody was also honored to work with legends like Judge Coyle and Judge Price at the federal court, and, eventually, Judge Wanger, on particular death penalty cases that were assigned to them. Woody remembers both Judge Price and Judge Wanger working late in their libraries and was impressed with their dedication to the law. One night when Woody had to work really late on a bench brief for a Ninth Circuit opinion for Judge Crocker, Judge Wanger popped in to say goodnight. It was 9:30 p.m.

Woody can't think of anywhere he could have gotten a better hands-on

education than at San Joaquin College of Law. And the class of 1989 was an exceptional class, beating Yale in the percentage of first time bar passers. Thank you San Joaquin for giving him these precious memories.

Hon. James Petrucelli

Judge Petrucelli started his career with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office from 1974 to 1989 as he also farmed and completed his law degree. He went into private practice until he was elected to the Fresno County Superior Court in June 1998. Jim was the Presiding Judge of the Family Law division from 1999 to 2006 and of the Coalinga and Kerman courts from 2006 to 2008. He is currently in the Felony Trial Department.

Judge Petrucelli is married to Toby Petrucelli. They have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. His hobbies include collecting original autographs of Supreme Court Justices and other famous lawyers, travel and his yard.

Judge Petrucelli has received numerous awards over the last 20 years, including the Sullivan Center of Children "Putting Children First" award in 2006 and the San Joaquin Association of Legal Assistants Merit Award in 1995. He is a member of many committees and associations including Exceptional Parents Unlimited, Inns of Court, California Judges Association, American Bar Association, Fresno County Bar Association, U. S. Supreme Court Historical Society and the California Supreme Court Historical Society.

When asked about special SJCL memories he said, "Meeting my study partner and life long best friend, Mike Goldring. Dean Pearson convincing me to stop thinking like a cop and start thinking like a lawyer. Justice Ardaiz's favorite response to any evidence question "There are rules, and they are good!"

Cindy Scully

Cindy has run her own practice since March of 1999. She practices in the areas of bankruptcy law and real estate litigation.

Cindy has been married to James E. Scully for 38 years. They have one son, James C. Scully. James has been married to Jennifer Neil for ten (10) years and they have triplet sons – Aidan, Maxwell and Dylan Scully. The triplets are four (4) years old. Cindy and her husband spend time with them every weekend which they look forward to all week.

While in school Cindy was awarded the Am Jur Award by Western State College of Law where she was a student for 18 months before she transferred to San Joaquin College of Law. The award was given for writing the best final exam paper for Civil Procedure 2. (There were 400 students in the combined classes so she is rather proud of this award.) Cindy was awarded the Hornbook Award at San Joaquin for having the highest GPA in her class for the 3rd and 4th years of school. She was also the valedictorian of her class.

Cindy's interests outside of work have nothing to do with law. She is still an avid reader and gardener. Cindy enjoys the local Jazz talent, mostly at Cal State Bakersfield where her son teaches in the Music Department. She has attended the local Jazz Festival in May for the last 10 years. It is a two-day event with many accomplished and award-winning artists. She highly recommends it.

Cindy keeps busy with work, home and grandchildren. She made many trips to New York in the last couple of years to help her parents who were very ill. They have recently passed away. Cindy holds a "Landlord Workshop" at the local law library to help landlords correctly file and litigate Unlawful Detainer actions.

1999 Raymond Allen

Ray is a junior partner at the firm of Alton & Allen, Inc. His partner is also his wife, Jennifer Alton. They got married in July 2005, they moved in together in the beginning of Septem-

ber 2005, and started their practice at the end of September 2005. They practice criminal law and family law in San Luis Obispo, CA. It is a great community with a wonderful bar and bench - not unlike Fresno, actually.

Ray's daughter, Nicole (23), just moved to Bull Head City, Arizona and his son, John (28), still lives in Lemoore. John has two children, which makes Ray a grandfather.

Ray has been recognized for helping the courts by filling in as a pro tem judge. He also writes for the local bar bulletin. Ray has renewed his love for art. He recently re-modeled his shed into a "studio" so that he can begin to paint in a dedicated space. Jennifer and Ray love to travel. They have been to Paris, Boston, Virginia, Oregon, Mazatlan, and Cabo over the last few years. He wishes he could do more of that. Ray hates how many times he has to admit, "I have never been there." He would love to visit Italy, for instance. "Never been there."

Ray and Jennifer volunteer at the Woman's Shelter on their law night. Ray volunteers for the Court's law night. He is starting orientation for the Red Cross (He would like to be prepared for all the fires that will start soon). They are both on the board for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Foundation and involved in the criminal and family law bar sections in San Luis Obispo. As a firm, they have a thriving intern program and utilize a lot of Cal Poly interns. The internship gives the student great experience. It has helped many interns to decide whether they want to go on to law school to become lawyers. Ray and Jennifer then benefit from their youthful energy.

When asked about special memories at SJCL Ray commented, "There are so many. The emotional roller coaster that is law school is hard to put into a few words. I made some great friendships and was taught by many great professors, but the memory that first comes to mind is about Sally Perring.

Congratulations February 2009 Barpassers



BACK ROW (L-R):
Kara Schacher, Jeff Suggs,
and **Steve Malm**

MIDDLE ROW (L-R):
Cynthia Espinosa, Christy Nijjer,
Rob Wyrick, and **Shawn Olsen**

FRONT ROW (L-R):
Nick Aniotzbehere,
Kevin Kalajian, and **Bret Grove**

NOT PICTURED (L-R):
Myava Escamilla,
Elizabeth Lerma,
and **Abel Martinez**

In my third year, I was doing miserably in her real property course. I was so frustrated with my mid-term score that I seriously contemplated quitting law school. Why put myself through the agony and expense if I am not going to graduate in the end, I thought. I made an appointment with Sally and we reviewed my mid-term together. She pointed out that I wrote well, but was missing too many issues. She encouraged me to stay in school and said that I would survive if I analyzed issues on the pages of the blue book and did not discard them after analysis in my head. Frankly, any other words would have changed the course of my entire life. For that I owe her so very much. On my office wall is my degree from SJCL. When I see her signature at the bottom, I always think of the time she spent with me that afternoon.”

Kirsten K. Corey

Since graduation Kirsten has pursued many new adventures. She continued her employment at Community Medical Centers Foundation as the Director

of Community Medical Foundation and Community Benefits Program for approximately a year and a half before pursuing employment in the legal community at Yohman, Parker, Kern, Nard & Wenzel. Kirsten enjoyed representing insurance companies, self-insured entities, and employers in handling workers compensation and employment related matters for approximately 5 years. In 2006 Kirsten continued representing insurance companies, employers, physicians, and hospital entities at McCormick, Barstow, Sheppard, Wayte & Carruth. She is involved in both first party and third party matters in state, federal and administrative courts, which truly keeps her on her toes and thriving.

Kirsten and her husband have three children, John (13), Madeline (10), and Joshua (4 ½). They seem to always make life interesting and entertaining. Next year will represent the first year where the Corey household will have three children at three different schools!! John is a boy scout and baseball player, Madeline is a softball, soc-

cer and piano player. Josh just makes sure that everyone knows whose boss. Kirsten's latest saying is the "World According to Josh" and let's just say he never seems to disappoint!!

Kirsten has been able to play in the USTA tennis league for Sierra Sport & Racquet Club every now and then, but most of her time is spent keeping up with her kids' schedules. You can also catch her every other morning or so (between 5:30 and 6:30 am – before her son's school bus leaves at 6:50 am) at Sierra Sport and Racquet Club exercising in some form or another!! The gym is just around the corner and quite convenient.

Kirsten served as a board member for Children's Services Network until approximately 2006. Most recently she was elected to the Fresno County Bar Association Board of Directors. She has taught and will continue to teach the Administrative Law paralegal class at Fresno City College in the fall.

When asked about SJCL memories she said “Jan Pearson’s Tort class, and yes, Jan was right, you really need to know your BARF statements, and the questions that she presented to us were on the Bar Exam. I couldn’t actually believe it!!! Sally Perring and her infinite wisdom of steering me in the right direction, and getting me through law school with work and children!! Karen Spinardi and her continual support when I didn’t quite understand the legal issue at hand. David Moeck and Richard Caglia and all of their performances in the law library when they were supposed to be studying for the BAR exam. And Rob Cassio for watching Madeline (a new-born) in the library, when she joined me on emergency research treks to the library.”

Richard E. Esquivel

Since passing the bar Richard has been in private practice. His practice consists primarily of criminal and personal injury matters. Beginning in 2002, he also began working for Ciummo & Associates (was Barker & Associates)

providing indigent defense. His assignment with Ciummo & Associates was, and continues to be, covering outlying Fresno County Courts like Coalinga, Reedley and Kingsburg, where he represents individuals in criminal matters who can not be represented by the Public Defender’s office due to a conflict of interest. Though it involves a great deal of travel, Richard loves his assignment as it provides him with a wide range of felony and misdemeanor cases, as well as the time and flexibility to maintain his private practice. During the summer months, Richard occasionally takes his son, Jacob, to court. Jacob enjoys watching the court proceedings. When they’re done, they have lunch and sometimes visit local attractions (Coalinga has an excellent museum).

Richard has been married to his wonderful, tolerant, intelligent and beautiful wife, Terry, since 1992. They have two fantastic children, Jacob (12) and Sophia (6) who keep them on their toes, but very proud.

Besides the entirely too much T.V. he watches, and the very rare game of golf he plays, Richard enjoys going to the movies with his children as well as dinner and a movie with his wife. They love taking short family vacations to places like Disneyland, Monterey and Las Vegas. Oh, and then there is the poker. Richard enjoys playing poker, specifically Texas Hold’em. He thinks he’s pretty good at it, but he has no plans to quit his day job.

Richard has wonderful memories of working as a proctor in the law library under our wonderful librarian Kathryn, as well as just about any time he spent with friends he made in law school - like Jim Trevino, Dave Moeck, Bill Parry, Richard Caglia, Rob Cassio, Ravi Sethi and too many more to mention. He has especially enjoyed watching confirmed bachelors like Jim Trevino and Dave Moeck become husbands and fathers! “Who’d a thunk it!”

ADVANCEMENT DEVELOPMENTS



Celebrating 40 Years...

Advancement has been very busy raising funds for the law school through the Annual Fund, the Barrister’s Ball, Fundamentals of Bankruptcy program, and other projects. We truly appreciate our donors’ dedication in supporting us, despite our troubled economy.

Many of you may have received a call from one of our students, during the phon-a-thon, to encourage you to make a gift to the 2009 **CLASSATHON** Annual Fund Challenge. The next phon-a-thon will be happening the first week of July. Thank you to all who graciously accept our calls and pledge your support to the school this year! Our students appreciate talking to you and getting to know our alumni better. Our priority in

Advancement continues to be increasing the level of alumni participation in the Annual Fund and meeting our goal of \$50,000, so we are grateful for a gift of any size from you.

In celebration of the law school’s 40th anniversary, we are asking if you have never made a gift to the law school before, to make a first time gift of \$40, and if you are a supporter of the school to increase your last gift by 40%, to help ensure we continue on for another 40 years of success. You may send your contribution in the envelope enclosed in this issue or you can go directly to our website and use our on-line payment link.

Total Giving

Gifts Received Recap
(through 6/17/09)

Current **CLASSATHON** Leaders
• Participation..... 1988
• Contribution 1993

Annual Fund..... \$37,777
Scholarships \$37,461
Endowment Fund.....\$2,133
Law Review \$350
Library Fund \$18,375
General Donations \$28,550

You deserve to be properly recognized for your contributions, and we strive for 100 percent accuracy. If we have made an error, please contact the Advancement Department at 323-2100 with corrections. Please note our new format of recognizing donors will include those donors and gifts received during the period between each Inter Alia publication instead of an annual cumulative list. Due to the generosity of our donors, we are unable to report cumulatively on one page anymore.

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March 21, 2009 – June 12, 2009

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.

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Some of SJCL staff in attendance at the 2009 Barrister's Ball (L-R)
Mia Moore, Administrative Assistant for Accounting, **Mark Enns**,
Marketing Manager, **Joyce Morodomi**, Director of Student Services
& Special Events Coordinator, **Robin Leppo**, Director of Institutional
Advancement, and **Kasi Welte**, Institutional Advancement Associate &
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Ysidro Macias ('78)
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United Way and Philip Tavlian ('80)
Kasi Welte (Staff)
Jane Woodcock ('92)
Thomas Zynda ('93)

Donation of Books to the Library

Honorable W. Richard Lee
Philip Tavlian ('80)
Richard C. Watters

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Fresno Art Museum
Fresno Magazine
Fresno Philharmonic
Horn Photo
James Ashjian Lighting
Joyce Morodomi
National Hardware Supply
One to One Catering – Chef Reyes
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2ND Annual Barrister's Ball

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If there is a topic you would like to suggest,
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SENIOR CITIZEN **Law Day '09** SEPTEMBER 12TH

The SJCL Alumni Association is again presenting Senior Citizens Law Day 2009. This event is a community service where seniors can learn about conservatorships, guardianships, estate planning, planning for long term care, competency, fighting predatory lending and protecting themselves from financial abuse. Statewide experts, local attorneys and healthcare professionals will be available to teach and answer questions.

If you are interested in participating in this event, contact:

Marcie Downing at 559/229-8109 or marcella.downing@sbcglobal.net

