



Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

Volume XX, Number 4

December 2009

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2009 Alumni Hall of Fame

SJCL Inducts Elizabeth Kams Egan (Law '95), Kathy Hart (Law '77), and Honorable Don Penner (Law '74) into the Alumni Hall of Fame

By **Missy Mckai Cartier**, Public Information Officer

Master of Ceremonies Hal Bolen was faced with the happy dilemma of too much of a good thing, declaring at the Federal Courthouse "If we read all the bios, we'd be here until court convened in the morning and we'd probably be on some jury."

The kudos and accomplishments of the ten nominees for this year's San Joaquin College of Law Alumni Hall of Fame filled the evening, along with applause and laughter. For the first time ever, the vote resulted in a three-way tie. The law school opted to induct all three at the ceremony, which was co-hosted by the law school, the Federal Bar Association and the Fresno County Bar Association. Sponsors included McCormick Barstow LLP and the *Business Journal*.

And the winners are...

Fresno County District Attorney Elizabeth Kams Egan (Law '95)

Egan is the first female District Attorney in the County's history, and is also credited for her tireless work on behalf of women and children. Egan began her career on the Misdemeanor Team, moved to the Juvenile Unit, Felony trials, and then to the Domes-

tic Violence Unit, and the Narcotics Unit. Egan expressed her shock at earning a place in the SJCL Hall of Fame, calling the school "a gem," and adding such honors would be more rightfully given to the school's founders, the Board of Trustees, and Dean Jan Pearson.

Kathy Hart (Law '77)

Hart, who brought along a Sudoku puzzle "in case anything got really boring," has apparently never had time to get bored. She has run a private practice for more than two decades, along with sitting on the Fresno County Superior Court special circumstance and death penalty homicide panel and the Federal Criminal Justice Act panel. She is also one of the founding editors of the Bar Bulletin and is active in VIP Mentors (formerly Volunteers in Parole), an organization that matches parolees with attorney mentors. And she's getting pretty good at Sudoku. Hart says SJCL gave her the freedom to enjoy making a living using "flowing words," while still putting aside a little money for world travel.

Honorable Don Penner (Law '74)

Penner began his legal career in the Fresno County District Attorney's Office in 1975, where he served as



Photo: Ronald D. Webb

Fresno County District Attorney Elizabeth Kams Egan (Law '95)



Photo: Ronald D. Webb

Kathy Hart (Law '77)



Photo: Ronald D. Webb

Honorable Don Penner (Law '74)

As we race into 2010, this is my opportunity to say "Thank You!" to all who make the law school a success. Thank you hardly seems sufficient for all the effort and time that is devoted.

Thank you to the members of the Board of Trustees who love the law school and want future generations of SJCL graduates to have the opportunity for a sound legal education.

Thank you to the full-time and adjunct faculty who devote hundreds of hours to teaching. I know how long it takes to prepare for class, conduct class, meet with students, and read exams. In addition, each of the full-time faculty carries some administrative responsibility. Professor Purvis is Chair of the Faculty. Professor Cartier is the Coordinator of Academic Support and designed the Introduction to Law School pre-course. Professor Rooney runs every aspect of the Library. Professor Kerner coordinates the Clinical Programs. Professor Artenian coordinates the Jury Assessment. Thank you to adjunct faculty members the Honorable Jon Conklin, Christine Goodrich, Jeremy Lusk, Deanna Martinez, and Rose Safarian, who along with the full-time faculty, serve on the Faculty Committee and sub-committees and are the principal formulators of academic policy.

Thank you to Dean of Academic Affairs Sally Perring. Thank you, Sally, for enduring accreditation reports – most recently the WASC Educational Effectiveness report. Thank you for thinking outside the box on educational theory and techniques. Thank you for keeping our ridiculously detailed and complex data record from which we learn so much.

Thank you to the donors to SJCL. Not only do you keep us running through the annual fund and assist students through scholarships, but you also fuel our dreams through your financial support. That you

feel that our efforts are worthwhile inspires us to do more.

SJCL has an incredible staff. Bear with me while I try – in way too succinct a fashion and no particular order – to thank them.

Thank you, Joan Lassley, for keeping our operation functioning on so many planes, and for being willing to help at any time in any way with a smile. Thank you, Library team - Peter, Cyndee Robinson, and Kristi Costa, along with many proctors – for keeping the library up-to-date, accessible, and properly paid for. Our glorious building is always in top-notch shape; thank you Rick Rodriguez and Matt Dillard.

Thank you Finance team – Jill Waller-Randles, Maureen Hayes, Debbi Chacon, and Mia Moore (and soon, Lisa Nilmeier) – for handling so many and often confusing transactions, getting payroll done, and the bills paid. It is not an accident that SJCL has clean audits every year! Oh, and Jill, just how many separate, absurdly detailed, and totally different financial reports must you make to various governmental agencies each year?

Thank you, Jeannie, for helping so many students in so many ways with financial aid. Here comes Mia to help you with all the changes on the horizon. Here, too, it is no accident that SJCL has clean financial aid audits.

Thank you to everyone performing student services. Joyce Morodomi has for years counseled prospective and current students, processed admission files, and served as registrar – detail, detail, detail. Thank you Lonzetta Hightower for relieving so much burden from Joyce. Thank Cynthia Van Doren for helping those hopeful students

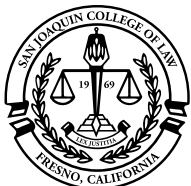
and alumni in finding employment. Thank you Diane Steel for the exciting and innovative techniques you have brought to recruitment for SJCL; we are only now beginning to feel the benefit of it all.

Thank you to Pat Smith for insuring classes and exams happen, creating the registration packet, bringing in extra income through rentals and generally herding faculty. Thank you Missy McKai Cartier for beginning to position SJCL and its graduates to rise to the level of public awareness they deserve.

Thank you to the Development team for growing our future. To Robin Leppo, Director of Institutional Advancement, for SJCL's increasing annual fund dollars and participation, stellar events that showcase alumni, and big plans for the future. To Kasi Welte for data management, prospect research, and managing MCLE and graduation. Thank you to Mark Enns for killer graphics. Just look at the SJCL webpage, Inter Alia, and scores of other documents!

Thank you to the support team. Gwen Watt, our diligent Regulatory Compliance Officer, works tirelessly to keep SJCL compliant with the myriad complex laws currently facing any business. The smiling face at the front desk and on the phone is Carlyn Robbins. Thank, you, Carlyn. Thank you Ken Coyle for all you did to keep SJCL computer systems running; we miss you. Thank you Derron Wilkinson for having the skills and courage to step into that void.

Finally, thank you SJCL students and alumni. I've been affiliated with SJCL for 25 years. I am in a position to know. You are the best.



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SJCL Celebrates July Bar Passers

By **Missy Mckai Cartier**, *Public Information Officer*

Fifty years from now, Bryan Doss will still be telling the story of what happened to him on November 23, 2009, the day of the Champagne Reception for San Joaquin College of Law students who passed the bar. Bryan was among those who took the test back in July, but apparently entered the wrong code when he tried to check whether he passed. When his name did not appear, he resolved to cash in an IRA when he returned to work the following Monday so he could pay to take the bar a second time.

That Monday morning, he decided to take a quick look to see which classmates had passed when he saw his own name among the 27 SJCL grads who made the grade. Stunned, he called the Law School to confirm the good news, and then tried to reach his wife at home in Tulare. When she didn't answer, he drove there from Fresno to let her know they would be attending the champagne celebration that evening. In his words, he "went from the bottom to the top" in a single day.

Also going to the top was Hulya Reshad, whose parents were in town from Cyprus to celebrate her passing the bar. Both said she swore over and over she had failed, but they suspect she was trying to shield them in case she didn't pass. Hulya joked she was disappointed she passed and "wanted to do it again in February because it was so much fun!"

SJCL Alumna Valerie Velasco seemed to echo best the feeling among those at the celebration, as she proclaimed



BACK ROW (L-R) Dennis Yamada, Lisa Madden, Bryan Doss, Tony Munoz, Paul Brar, and Steven Stadler

MIDDLE ROW (L-R) Adam Rodriguez, Lacey Nelson Sanchez, Lisa Horton, Sherylyn Greer, and Stephen Labiak

FRONT ROW (L-R) Bryce Hatakeyama, Carmen Ramirez, Valerie Velasco, Beth Waldow, Crystal Cabrera, Hulya Rashad, and Katie Phillips

ALSO SUCCESSFUL BUT NOT PICTURED: Katwyn DeLaRosa, Brande Gustafson, Ben Greer, Rhea Ikemiya, Pahoua Lor, Daniel Prado, Ivo Stimac, Emily Takao, and Griselda Torres

"I can breathe again!" Her eleven-year-old son, Orion Barrett, was busy snapping a picture of the paper taped to the wall, the first official posting of his Mom's achievement. Valerie says everyone cried when they learned she had passed the bar, but admits she cried the most.

Family was also a big part of the celebration for Dennis Yamada, who says his first phone call after he learned he passed was to his mother. Prior to that,

he played cards to take his mind off the nerve-racking wait.

Dean Jan Pearson was delighted to discover there won't be much of a wait for the celebrants when it comes to landing a job. Most have one already, including Beth Waldow. She was a park ranger and federal law enforcement officer when she came to SJCL. She's already working for Walter Wilhelm Law Group, but now adds the title of "Attorney" to her business cards.

Full-Time Faculty

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

Adjunct Faculty

Jesse Avila, Art Baggett, Barry J. Bennett, Alison Berg, Hristo Bijev, Hal Bolen, Andreas Borgeas, David M. Camenson, Dan Casas, Hon. Hilary Chittick, Lisa Coffman, Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Phil Cronin, Mark Cullers, Matthew Farmer, Christine Goodrich, Jason Hamm, Shannon Harding, Kathi K. Kesselman, Abigail Leaf, Jeremy Lusk, Jeff Manning-Cartwright, Deanna Martinez, Kathy McKenna, William T. McLaughlin II, Mark D. Miller, Douglas E. Noll, Kimberly Nystrom-Geist, Timothy O'Connor, Rose Safarian, Rene Sample, Gary Sawyers, Michael Sheltzer, Michael Slater, Jacqueline Yates

New Staff



Missy Mckai Cartier

Missy Mckai Cartier is the new Public Information Officer for SJCL as of October, 2009. Along with a degree in Journalism from Penn State, she brings with her 35 years of broadcast experience, including most recently as a reporter and anchor for KMJ, and eight years as News Bureau Chief for Metro Networks. Her first order of business has been the formation of the San Joaquin College of Law Alumni Circle, which is already sending alumni to the media for interviews ranging from employment to habitation law, in formats ranging from live radio shows to print media.

She has been married to SJCL Professor Richard Cartier for 27 years. They have three daughters, including Rachel Cartier, who is a second year law student at SJCL.



Derron Wilkinson

Derron Wilkinson joined SJCL as the new Manager of Information Services on November 1, 2009. Derron attended Reedley College and Fresno Pacific University. He worked for University of California Office of the President, University of California Merced and has done contract work for HP, Dell, Home Depot and recently Fresno County. Most recently, Derron owned his own company, Your Innovative Design. He was lured away when he was offered the position at SJCL. Derron has developed a plan to significantly upgrade SJCL computer services, WiFi network, and operation programs. Derron is married to Nikki. They have two adorable girls, Darian, age 3, and Devyn, age 2, that keep them very busy.

2009 Got MCLE?

By **Nitza Coleman** (Law '03)

This year's free "Got MCLE?" had amazing speakers who offered inspiring sessions. Ethics was taught by Judge Houry Sanderson, Fresno County Superior Court. Gary D. Brunsvik of Bolen Fransen, LLP, spoke on Secured Transactions, Article 9 – everything you ever wanted to know about the creation and perfection of Article 9 security interests but were afraid to ask! Daniel W. Rowley of Gilmore, Wood, Vinnard & Magness spoke on Bias. There were two sessions on Collaborative Law for the family practitioners from Central Valley Collaborative Law Affiliates, presented by Julie A. Hicks, Katherine Donovan, Susan Naplitano and Robert Kosbie. The Alumni Association appreciates and wants to thank publicly these speakers for their time.

Members of the Alumni Association received four hours of MCLE instruction free of charge, while other practitioners paid only \$100 for the event. It was certainly an opportunity to get great information and mandatory CLE credit.



Gary D. Brunsvik (Law '00) of *Bolen Fransen, LLP*, speaking on Secured Transactions.

Alumni Association board member Nitza Coleman (Law '03) chaired the event with help from Teresa Petty (Law '07), Scott Jones (Law '07), Joan Lassley, SBA Alumni Association representative Naser Nekumanesh, and several student volunteers. A special thank you to Mark Enns who made the program flyer look beautiful and Kasi Welte who makes sure everyone gets their MCLE documentation.



Daniel W. Rowley of *Gilmore, Wood, Vinnard & Magness* speaking on Bias

Alumni Christmas Party for Marjaree Mason Center

By **Missy Mckai Cartier**, *Public Information Officer*

A sleigh-load of thanks goes out to everyone who made the 16th annual SJCL Alumni Holiday Party for the residents of the Marjaree Mason Center a reality for more than 50 moms and children currently seeking shelter there.



CLOVIS HIGH CHAMBER SINGERS (L TO R): **Jeremy Miller**, **Andrey Kitsen**, and KMPH's **Kopi Sotiropulis**

"A lot of Moms won't let their kids open their present at the actual party, because that's the only gift they'll get this holiday season," according to Gwen Watt, Regulatory Compliance Officer and Human Resources Director for SJCL.

The generosity of the donors is especially noteworthy because the event is

held in secrecy to protect the families, meaning the donors receive no recognition. But the elves who actually worked at the party say they have been paid in full, simply by witnessing the big smiles on the little faces.



CLOVIS HIGH CHAMBER SINGERS (L TO R): Director **Mark Lanford**, **Ryan Strine**, **Chris Logan**, **Marin Currie**, **Andrea Hawkins**, **Krista Tavin**, **Deanna Halliday**, and **Mandy Mazzei**

Staff

Janice Pearson, Dean, **Sally Perring**, Dean of Academic Affairs, **Missy Mckai Cartier**, Public Information Officer, **Debbi Chacon**, Accounting Assistant, **Kristi Costa**, Head of Circulation, **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, **Derron Wilkinson**, Manager of Information Systems

It has truly been a fast and furious year, but above all, it has been rewarding.

We have had many amazing opportunities to touch our alumni and community. Early in the year we had the Annual Judy Wiseman Golf Tournament, followed by the student Barrister's Ball, where we awarded scholarships to three well-deserving students. In May we celebrated with Graduation and in an overwhelming response, welcomed our new alumni to the fold. In the fall we held "Got MCLE?," "Senior Law Day", the "Alumni Hall of Fame", and the 16th annual party for the Marjaree Mason Center. Your donations made this year's incredible events possible. We are really looking forward to celebrating the 40th anniversary of SJCL in September of 2010. We hope to see a great turnout for this milestone gathering.

It is also time to announce the results of the voting for next year's Alumni Association Board of Directors and to thank outgoing Board members Sheri Flynn (Law '05), Jeremy Lusk (Law '03), and Cynthia Van Doren (Law '04) for their much appreciated service. We wish them well.

Next, we are all grateful that Kevin Hansen will be joining us for another term. Finally, please join me in welcoming three new members to the Board: David Yengoyan (Law '05), Roger Wilson (Law '97), and Brande Gustafson (Law '09). I look forward to another great year working with everyone. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining. Information, including the membership form, is available on the SJCL website. We have a lot to do next year so enjoy the rest of this year.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all.

Sincerely,
Scott Jones (Law '07)
2009 Alumni Association President

San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review

*A Unique and Objective Forum for Analyzing
Legal Issues Related to Agriculture*

By **Karen J. Ray**, *SJALR Editor-in-Chief* and **Alicia Diaz Wrest**, *SJALR Assistant Editor-in-Chief*

The San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review, founded in 1990 and published annually by the students of San Joaquin College of Law, presents scholarly articles written by students and professionals nationwide on legal issues affecting our nation's most vital industry—agriculture. The journal serves as an important legal forum for legal scholarship and welcomes novel and diverse points of view.

Not only does the journal provide an objective, national forum for analyzing legal issues, but it is also used as an effective research tool for practicing attorneys as well as law students. From its inception, the journal has received judicial recognition as evidenced by the fact that its articles have been cited by the California Supreme Court, the California Appellate Court, the United States District Court, the New Mexico Court of Appeals, the Middle District of Tennessee and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The journal's articles have also been cited in the annotations of several California statutes. As recently as July 23, 2009, the California Fifth District Court of Appeals referenced the journal as a useful source for information on marketing orders in the unpublished opinion, *Stark Packing Corporation v. Sunkist Growers, Inc.*, No. F0526805, at *8 (Cal. Ct. App. Jul. 23, 2009), <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/nonpub/F052658M.PDF>.

In addition, articles published in the journal have received critical recognition. An Article published in Volume 16 of the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review entitled "Farm Fam-

ily Succession Planning: Balancing Professional Responsibility with Client Needs for Help with Family Relationship Issues," written by John Becker, Matthew Kaplan, and Jon Nussbaum, was named a recipient of the American Agricultural Law Association's 2007 Professional Scholarship Award.

Volume 18 of San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review was just released on December 4, 2009. The Volume features an Article entitled "The Long and Winding Road: Farmland Protection in Oregon 1961-2009" written by Edward Sullivan, an attorney, and Ronald Eber, a retired agricultural lands policy specialist for the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development. The Article chronicles the complex agricultural lands policy in Oregon from 1961 to today and was recently highlighted in the December 1, 2009 issue of *The Oregonian*, a daily on-line newspaper.

Volume 18 also features four Comments written by San Joaquin College of Law students. In Lisa A. Cutts' Comment, "Walking on the Wild Side: Classification and Liability for Owners of Wild-Domestic Animal Hybrids," Lisa takes the reader on a journey through the un-navigated territory of hybrid pet ownership and the inherent legal issues that arise. Alicia Diaz Wrest wrote the Comment "Buyer Beware: the Liability Gap Created by Tribal Farming," where she exposes the immunity from suit federally recognized tribes hold, and the far reaching legal ramifications this immunity causes. In Carey L. Hartsock's Comment entitled "Grounds for Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading in

Agricultural and Potential Constitutional Implications," she examines the landmark legislation that created AB 32 in California, scrutinizes whether or not the cap-and-trade system should be applicable to the agricultural industry, and analyzes whether AB 32 would survive a Dormant Commerce Clause challenge. Ann J. Stokes wrote the Comment "On the Brink of Tragedy: Reassessing Groundwater Management in California," in which she explores the competing interests regarding California water and examines the pressing need for change in managing the State's groundwater resources.

Also included in this Volume is the Comment entitled "Daddy Won't Sell the Farm: Drafting Right to Farm Statutes to Protect Small Family Producers," written by Tiffany Dowell, a 2009 Juris Doctorate graduate from the University of New Mexico School of Law. In her Comment, Tiffany makes the case for strengthening right to farm statutes to protect small family farms.

The future holds great promise for San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review. This year, the Editorial Board consisting of Karen Ray, Alicia Diaz Wrest, Carey Hartsock, Ann Stokes, Lisa Cutts, and Cheri-Lynn Wortham, is currently working on finalizing Volume 19 of the Law Review. If you would like more information regarding Law Review, or if you are interested in making a contribution to the journal in any way, please visit the Law Review's website at www.sjcl.edu/sjalr.

One Degree. A World of Options.

*An Alumni Panel Forum was held on October 27, 2009
at San Joaquin College of Law.*

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

The purpose of the forum was to introduce prospective students to the multitude of career applications available through a law degree. Moderated by Dean Pearson, panelists shared information regarding their career paths and how best to prepare, offering their own experiences as examples.

Jennifer Morrison (Law '99), local family law attorney, said that as soon as she passed the bar she opened her own family law practice. She explained that it is an added benefit to know that in addition to having the opportunity to be hired by many firms in the valley, law school graduates also have the option of opening their own practice. There are not a lot of careers that lend you the opportunity to become self employed. Diana Dooley (Law '95) described the study of law as "extraordinarily valuable" and said "the business of law is resolving disputes."

Lazaro Salazar (Law '03), who specializes in Immigration, said, "Once you see someone become a citizen, they light up. Once you see someone become a resident, they light up. It



ALUMNI PANEL (L-R) **Holly Perez** (Law '88) *Employment Law & Education & Law*; **Lazaro Salazar** (Law '03) *Litigation Attorney & Consulting Attorney for Mexican Consulate of Fresno*; **Diana Dooley** (Law '95) *President & CEO, California Children's Hospital Association*; **Michael Goldring**, (Law '89) *Health Care, Corporate, Real Estate & Business Transactions*; **Jennifer Morrison** (Law '99) *Family Law*; and **Christopher Watters** (Law '07) *Personal Injury*

means the world to them. I can't imagine my life without a law degree."

We appreciate the help of alumni in informing the public of the law school's motto: "One Degree. A World of Options." Our alumni remain the greatest recruitment resource. I welcome the assistance of alumni to accompany prospective students to

San Joaquin College of Law, give a personal tour, and share with them your greatest memories of law school.

Please refer prospective students to any of the upcoming events listed below. Contact me if you would like to assist in a Law Forum or are willing to talk to prospective students.

UPCOMING RECRUITMENT EVENTS

LSAT Night

Thursday, January 7, 7-9PM

Presented by our Dean Jan Pearson, prospective students will learn strategies to successfully tackle the LSAT. The last LSAT test for Fall 2010 admission is June 7, 2010. To register students must go to www.lsac.org.

Alumni Panel Forum

Thursday, April 27, 7-9PM

Prospective students will have the opportunity to learn from a panel of alumni in this free Alumni Panel Forum and discover more about the profession and the multitude of applications available through a law degree.

Free Informational Law Forums

Tuesday, January 12, 7-9PM

Thursday, February 18, 7-9PM

Tuesday, March 16, 7-9PM

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

*Catch our new recruitment ads starring **Warren Paboojian** (Law '85) on local TV and radio stations.*

Hall of Fame FROM PAGE 1

Deputy, Senior Deputy, Chief Deputy, and Assistant District Attorney before being appointed to a Fresno County Superior Court judgeship in 2006. The Master of Ceremonies quoted one of Penner's friends who called him "one of those guys who make you proud to be an attorney." Penner apparently clearly remembers those early days in the DA's Office when he found himself facing fellow-inductee Kathy Hart in court.

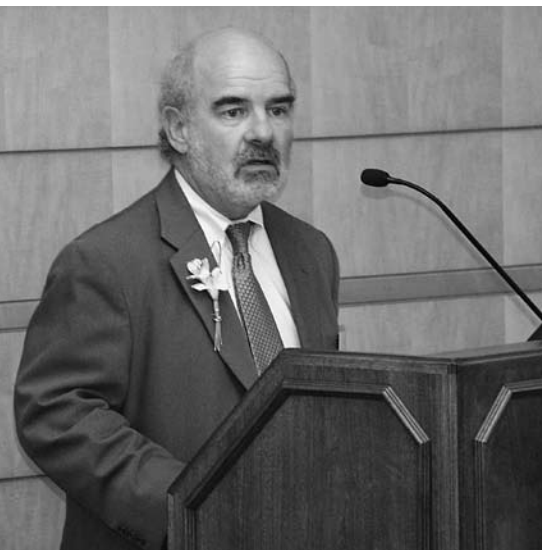


Photo: Howard K. Watkins

Master of Ceremonies **Hal Bolen**

He playfully accused her five children of winning the sympathy vote for her from jurors, as he faced a seemingly perpetually pregnant adversary.

All three inductees were chosen by vote of SJCL alumni based on their high standards of ethics, professional competency, and achievements which have brought recognition and honor to the College of Law.

Other nominees included...

Tulare County District Attorney Phil Cline (Law '78)

Cline began his career as a prosecutor in 1978 with the Tulare County District Attorney's Office, eventually specializing in homicide cases.

His high-profile convictions include a murder case in which the victim's body was never discovered and a brutal rape and murder case in which an eleven-year-old girl was killed in her own home. Since taking office as District Attorney in 1992, Cline has initiated a number of new programs to address worker's compensation and automobile insurance fraud, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, gang violence, and elder abuse.

Deborah Coe (Law '91)

Coe has experience in handling a variety of tort and contract litigation, including personal injury, crop insurance, construction, environmental, premises liability, and insurance defense. She serves as a judge pro tem for the Fresno County Small Claims Court and has also served on the Board of Trustees for SJCL since 2003.

Eric Green (Law '76)

Green has fond memories of the nine years he worked for the Fresno County District Attorney's office immediately after graduation. For the past 22 years, he has been self-employed as a criminal defense attorney. Over the course of his career, Green has tried approximately 200 cases. More than 60 of those trials were murder cases, three of which were death penalty trials.

Ima Jean Harvey (Law '75)

Ima Jean Harvey returned to academics in 1971 following a successful career at Aramco and the Borax Company. Harvey was the only female in her class and says some of the male students delighted in giving her a bad time, but when it came to moot court or study partners, she was never slighted or ignored. Upon graduation, she became an attorney for the firm that would become Parichan, Renberg, Crossman and Harvey. In 1977, she became a shareholder, director and officer. Harvey was one of the first female attorneys to make "partner" in a major firm in the Fresno area.

Honorable R.L.

Chip Putnam (Law '75)

Judge Putnam began his legal career in 1974 in the Fresno Public Defender's Office, joining the staff as an attorney in 1977. He left in 1981 to establish a legal practice specializing in Criminal Defense, Domestic Relations, and Real Estate Law. Two years later, he joined the Fresno County District Attorney's Office, where he was a Senior Deputy and Team Leader when he was elected to the bench in 1986. Although Judge Putnam retired in 2006, he is currently involved in Court Coordination in Fresno County for the modernization of our local law library.

James D. Weakley (Law '78)

Weakley is the managing partner of the Fresno law firm of Weakley, Arendt & McGuire, LLP. He defends public entities in civil litigation, handling police liability, correctional liability, child protective services liability, medical malpractice, construction litigation, and civil rights litigation. His clients have included judges, district attorneys, sheriffs, chiefs of police, and heads of public agency departments. Weakley has also served as an arbitrator, mediator and judge pro tem for the Fresno County Superior Court.

Honorable Georgia York (Law '78)

Judge York 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 Appeals Board Administrative Law Judge in 1992.

Former Hall of Fame

Inductees include:

Theodore Forrest Jr. (Law '77, Inducted in 2007)

Mr. Forrest served as an adjunct professor at San Joaquin College of



Photo: Howard K. Watkins

FRONT ROW (L-R) **Hon. Gary Austin** (Law '76), **Elizabeth Kams Egan** (Law '95), **Katherine Hart** (Law '77), and **Hon. Don Penner** (Law '74)

BACK ROW (L-R) **Hon. Chip Putnam** (Law '75), **Phil Cline** (Law '78), **Hon. Georgia York** (Law '78), and **James Weakley** (Law '78)

Law from 1979 to 1983, while also representing Farmers Insurance Co. nationally. He co-authored Environmental Health Law and California Title Insurance Practice. Mr. Forrest served as Secretary and Trustee for San Joaquin College of Law, Judge Pro Tem, and Arbitrator for the Fresno County Superior Court. Following his passing in 2001, his friends created an SJCL scholarship in his honor.

Ernest S. Kinney
(Law '75, Inducted in 2007)

Fresno's preeminent criminal trial attorney arrived at SJCL in 1971 following more than three years as a Marine Corps captain. Ernie Kinney received his Juris Doctorate in 1975. He then spent nearly three years in the Fresno County Public Defender's Office before forming the law firm of Cowin, Johnson, Brewer, Tibbs and Kinney. In 1980, he started Ernest S. Kinney Law. In the courtroom, he was a tireless fighter who never backed down when defending his clients, many of whom faced murder charges. Kinney's untimely death saddened even his most contentious adversaries, whose memories of his sometimes-maddening court moves were mixed with

respect for a man who was impossible to ignore or dislike. Kinney provided generous scholarship support to SJCL from 1992 through 2008. Following his death that year, an effort has been mounted to continue that scholarship in his honor.

Honorable Gary S. Austin
(Law '76, Inducted in 2008)

After graduation, Austin first worked as a law clerk for the District Court for the Eastern District of California and then as Deputy District Attorney. He became a Municipal Court judge in 1986. In 1988, he joined the Superior Court, where he presided over criminal cases, including death penalty cases, served as Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division, and presided over civil and family law matters. He currently serves as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Michael G. Marderosian
(Law '77, Inducted in 2008)

Marderosian opened his own practice of law in Fresno on the very day he was sworn into the bar in 1977. Since then, he has focused his practice on civil litigation and has tried over 100 jury trials for both plaintiffs and defendants. He is the senior partner in the firm of Marderosian, Runyon, Cercone, Lehman & Armo. Marderosian is also one of the few SJCL graduates to be inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers.



Photo: Ronald D. Webb

FRONT ROW (L-R) **Doug Haas** (Law '82), **James Weakley** (Law '78), **Hon. Gary Austin** (Law '76), and **Hon. Dennis Beck**

BACK ROW (L-R) **Hon. Denise Whitehead**, **Mark Cullers**, **Frank Kams**, and **Hon. Chip Putnam**

Legacy Luncheons

Class of 1998

BACK ROW (L-R) **Larry DeWitt**, **Sally Perring**, *Faculty*, **Jeffrey G. Purvis**, *Faculty*, and **Sean O'Rourke**

FRONT ROW (L-R) **Kimberly Mayhew**, **Janice Pearson**, *Dean* and **Jennifer Reisz**

ALSO ATTENDED BUT NOT PICTURED: **Joan Lassley**, *Alumni Liaison*



Class of 1999



BACK ROW (L-R) **Jim Trevino**, **Brian Cuttone**, **Rick Banks**, **David Hollingsworth**, **Greg Gross**, **Rob Cassio**, **Jan Pearson**, *Dean*, **Richard Esquivel**, and **Ravi Sethi**

FRONT ROW (L-R) **Brad Stevens**, **Sally Perring**, *Faculty*, **Rose Petrosyan**, **Kathleen McKenna**, **Kirsten Corey**, and **Michelle Oleksa**

ALSO ATTENDING BUT NOT PICTURED **Colleen Carlson**, **Robin Leppo**, *Director of Institutional Advancement*, **Joan Lassley**, *Alumni Liaison*, and **Jennifer Morrison**

Class of 2000



BACK ROW (L-R) **Sarah Mirhadi Offen**, **Susan Purvis**, **James Myers**, **Charlotte Hylton Konczal**, **Sally Perring**, *Faculty*, **Craig Fry**, **Jeffrey G. Purvis**, *Faculty*, **Gary Brunsvik**, **Karney "Mark" Mekhitarian**, and **Rusty Miller**

FRONT ROW (L-R) **Debra Mosley**, **Jo Anne Morales**, **Stefanie Krause-Cota**, **Jan Pearson**, *Dean*, and **Christiane Issa**.

ALSO ATTENDING BUT NOT PICTURED **Amy Rappaport Arambula**, and **Joan Lassley**, *Alumni Liaison*.

Alumni Profiles

SJCL congratulates our alumni celebrating 10, 20, and 30-year anniversaries in 2009. 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

Fran (Wessel) Christiansen

Fran Christiansen and her husband, Jim, retired from their positions at the Fifth District Court of Appeal in Fresno on May 31, 2000, and moved to Ojai the next day. During her nearly 20 years at the Court, Fran worked as a writ, central staff and chambers attorney for several justices. During this period, she served on the State Bar Juvenile Justice Committee and later on the State Bar Appellate Courts Committee, which she chaired in her final year. While at the Court, Fran was active in California Women Lawyers and later became a Life Member. She participated in state and local activities of the National Women's Political Caucus.

The highlight of her political activity was joining with a number of other local women lawyers in a group called Diversity Advocates in an attempt to elect women to the judicial bench in Fresno County. "I can still recall my elation after the first election when I opened the paper to find Jane Cardoza had been elected to the bench. It was worth every dollar and every minute we spent. Judge Cardoza has more than repaid us with her integrity and intelligence."

For two years in the mid-1990s Fran left the Court and taught full time in the Criminology Department at CSUF. A full plate of courses -- Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Criminology and an introductory class, Crime in America -- kept her busy and ended whatever reluctance she had about public speaking.

While at the Court, Fran worked in the late-Justice William Stone's chambers with fellow alumna Sara Hedgpeth-Harris (Law '86) and later with Joby Dupuis (Law '85) when she returned to the court to work for Justice Nicholas Dibiaso in the late 1990's. Working in those chambers was the highlight of her time at the Court. "The justices were top flight and Sara and Joby were smart lawyers, and very entertaining people. The Court was simply a great place to work."

Fran did not settle easily into retirement. She worked as the Development Coordinator at the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation post-9/11, and later as the Development Director at Villanova Preparatory School in Ojai. Meanwhile, Jim, a self-described slacker, became an unemployed surfer (who later woke up and studied drawing and wrote a family memoir, numerous short stories and two screenplays).

During their first summer in Ojai, Fran worked with the Ojai Film Festival, which led to a multi-year position on the Board of the Ojai Film Society. This has led to a near obsession with film. She and Jim travel to the Telluride Film Festival every year, and attend the local Santa Barbara Film Festival as well. And Netflix hasn't made a penny off them.

Fran works with a philanthropic organization called the Social Justice Fund for Ventura County, and serves on its Steering Committee. "The members raise funds to distribute to nonprofit groups in Ventura that are involved in grass-roots community organizing. We award them grants they use to make

social, environmental and economic change in our community. It is incredibly rewarding."

To round things out, she works as a docent at the Getty Villa in Malibu every week, giving Orientation and Architecture and Garden tours to visitors. She is a member of the Docent Leadership Team, working with Getty Education to recruit and train new docents. "I always loved archaeology and ancient history. It was my original major in college, until my father gently suggested I might want to find a major that would provide me with a living. I'm lucky that now I'm able to be a part of something I have loved for decades."

Jim and Fran travel to Fresno occasionally to visit Jim's daughter, Lorraine, a UCSB and USC graduate, who works in marketing at Pelco. "As long as she keeps appearing in local dramas and musicals, we'll keep coming. I think she has set a record appearing as Belle in 'Beauty and the Beast' three times." Other travels include Fran's favorites: Greece and Italy. She looks forward to traveling to Hawaii and finding Ysidro Macias's ('78) restaurant -- and having some great tortillas! "Ysidro and I are proof there is life after law!"

Her favorite SJCL memories include Kathy Naiman -- the vegetarian who introduced Fran to tofu; eating an entire can of spray cheese while they were in San Diego for the bar exam; Don Forbes showing up for class with a pie he had baked on his night job at Marie Callendar's; and Bob Broughton saying "I don't understand" during study group at Patty Noyes' apartment. "Of course he understood, he's been a commissioner for decades!"

Fran will never turn down a request from Jan Pearson for a donation. "Whatever day in the past I worked the hardest, she works harder than that every day to make SJCL and its students a success. My law degree made me a more informed and empathetic

person, and I will always be grateful to SJCL for giving me my path to a terrific life!”

1989 Michael Goldring '89

Prior to founding Fishman, Larsen, Goldring & Zeitler, Michael was a Partner with the law firm of Baker, Manock & Jensen, where he practiced in the areas of health care law, corporate law, and real estate law including secured transactions, acquisitions and loan restructuring.

Michael Goldring's practice concentrates on health care law and the health care provider. Michael represents medical groups, provider organizations, physicians, medical facilities, and other providers. He routinely represents health care providers in matters relating to health care network development and integration, mergers and acquisitions of health care facilities, managed care, provider licensing and privileges, antitrust, fraud and abuse defense, regulatory compliance, and business formation and structuring. He serves as special health care counsel to consultants and other law firms, is a frequent lecturer on health care issues, and is the author of numerous health care related articles.

He is a member of the American Health Lawyers Association, California Society for Health Care Attorneys, and the Fresno County, California, and American Bar Associations. Michael has also been designated as a "Physician Friendly" attorney by the California Medical Association.

Michael is a member and former chair of the Real Property Section of the Fresno County Bar Association (1992-1997) and a member and former chairman of the Fresno County Real Estate Roundtable (1993-1997).

Michael and his lovely wife, Kimberly, are the proud parents of three incredible daughters; Jocelyn, a Senior at CSUF

and 2009 Student Volunteer of the year, Alexis, a Freshmen at UCI, and Rachael, a Junior at Bullard. That's not counting their 3 dogs, 5 cats, several rats, fish, turtles and the like that are also part of the family.

Michael loves the great outdoors, especially hiking in the Sierras, Yellowstone and anywhere else there are mountains and wildlife. On his outdoor adventures, Michael gets to practice his other true passion, wildlife and nature photography. Michael's photographic masterpieces can be viewed in many locations in Fresno, including the offices of Fishman, Larsen, Goldring & Zeitler office and at Michael's website, www.yosemitelight.com. Michael loves to play hockey and currently plays for the Hawks, the spring and summer 2009 League Champions of Beer League Hockey located in Fresno. Michael takes his commitment to Camp Taylor seriously by devoting several weeks each summer at the Camp Taylor summer camps acting as their official photographer, director, and chief prankster. He loves the Trojans, hates the Bruins, and cries over the San Jose Sharks, although they looked good for 2008-2009. Michael loves technology and always sports the latest technological gadgets.

Michael serves as General Counsel to several non-profit organizations that serve medically fragile and special needs children. Key among them are Exceptional Parents Unlimited (www.exceptionalparents.org), an organization devoted to children and families facing extraordinary medical, developmental and parenting challenges and Camp Taylor (www.kidsheartcamp.org), which provides medically supervised camps to children and families affected by congenital heart disease. Michael also serves as advisory counsel to non-profits that focus on health care issues and environmental issues.

When asked about special school memories he said "Dean Pearson's vicious dog, Jim Petrucelli's unceasing

ability to study for hours on end and his voracious appetite, Bud Ellis' teaching style and wonderful repasts, and the class that shouldn't and did – 95.287% first-time pass rate. Read it in awe!”

Elizabeth Parker

For about a year and a half after law school Elizabeth worked for the California State Department of Social Services in the legal department. She then went to work for State Compensation Insurance Fund. Elizabeth loved her work there and stayed for over seven years. She enjoyed working for Bill Jordan, an amazing boss she admired very much.

Elizabeth was offered the position of Administrative Law Judge in 1997 in the Social Services division by another SJCL alumnus, Jose Banuelos, and has been there ever since. She enjoys her work which takes her throughout the state hearing cases regarding indigent citizens' benefits. This work has brought her great satisfaction dealing with social workers in numerous counties around the state. Their work ethic and commitment to these citizens has been an inspiration for Elizabeth. With the State cutbacks her traveling has decreased and she works from home much more these days.

While in school, Elizabeth often brought her daughter, Michelle, with her to study in the library. Michelle was married by Elizabeth in Sacramento 5 years ago and has given Elizabeth her first grandson, Sebastian. This baby is the joy of Elizabeth's life and she expects another grandchild in February 2010. Elizabeth hopes to spend lots of time with him, too. Elizabeth spends all her extra time traveling north to visit.

Elizabeth is a member of the Fresno Rotary. She belongs to a finance group which looks at investments. She loves to walk, read, spend time outdoors and travel. She also enjoys season tickets to the Fresno Opera and Philharmonic.

Elizabeth started with many students who graduated the year ahead of her. She worked fulltime while going to school at night and has fond memories studying with Jim Petrucelli and Michael Goldring for the Bar exam. Attending SJCL was a very positive experience; she treasures many fond memories.

Robert Wynne

Robert became a member of the California State Bar on December 18th, 1989. This event occurred approximately two weeks after the rest of his class as he was a tad too honest about his horrid past on his moral character application. Ironically, after practicing for a while, he realized that his sordid past was nothing compared to those who came before him.

Robert began his career with the Law Office of Jeff Reich. By contract with the County of Fresno, Mr. Reich provided criminal defense services to indigent defendants who the Public Defender could not represent. Prior to being sworn in, Robert worked with the Reich's office as a Private Investigator, as he was a licensed private investigator during law school. At this office Robert learned two things: he liked this criminal law stuff and there is no such thing as a secret. In 1991, he opened his own office.

In 1995 Robert obtained certification by the California State Bar Board of Legal Specialization as a "Certified Specialist, Criminal Law." He has been renewed as a specialist every five years since. Robert handles criminal cases in State and Federal Court. He has handled matters from one end of California to the other, in addition to Federal matters in Arizona, Utah, Oregon, and Pennsylvania.

Robert is married with two children. Robert is 15 and Christine is 12 – going on 30 (Since he has never progressed beyond an emotional age of 18, he finds it easy to relate to them).

Robert is a wonderful golfer and Christine plays on an undefeated volleyball team. "Good kids, however, it is lucky I am a skilled cross-examiner; otherwise, I would know nothing about their lives."

Robert rides motorcycles, plays golf, sails, and is a servant and chauffeur to the aforementioned kids. Robert said he gets compliments all the time and judges are very courteous to him because they are trying to get him out of their courtrooms as quickly as possible.

During the last 20 years Robert has been privileged to have observed, and been mentored by Dana Anderson, John Smurr, and David Roberts. All are fine trial lawyers and helped him out immensely by example. The lesson was not to become like them, but rather to develop his own skills, to whatever level, and then be the last and best between the limitless power of the Government and a fellow citizen who is a target of that Government.

1999 Zipporah (Underhill) Dillon

Zipporah worked approximately three years in the Fresno DA's office as a Deputy DA after graduation. She loved it and enjoyed working with classmates – Scott Kubota (Law '98) and Monica Diaz (Law '98), Lorrie Anthony (Law '94) and others. In 2002, Zipporah left the DA's office and along with her children Zippy (Nicole) and Louis, moved to Calistoga in the Napa Valley. Zipporah married John Dillon in September 2003, worked in the Napa County DA's office for about nine months, and then had a little boy, Raleigh James, on Halloween 2005.

Zipporah now lives on a farm in Oregon in the same little town where she grew up. They have an incredible view of Mt. Hood. She is involved with her family's wheat

and cattle ranch with her sister and parents. Zipporah's husband, who is the CEO of a software company, lives and works in SF and visits them on the weekends. Zipporah does not currently have a regular job, but has many projects. They also have their own farming business with Angus cattle, wheat and alfalfa hay. The family owns a little country market which has been in the same two-story brick building since 1905. They are currently remodeling the store, what a nightmare. It has also taken three years to remodel an 1870's farm house where they hope to move early next year. Zipporah is on the boards of the local Historical Society and the Mid-Columbia Hospital Health Foundation.

Zippy Nicole is 21 and attends Portland State University majoring in Graphic Design. She is also a hostess in the restaurant at the Heathman Hotel. Louis is 19 and majoring in Agriculture at Oregon State. He is a partner in their farming business. Raleigh James attends pre-school and loves living on the farm and visiting San Francisco.

Zipporah has so many wonderful memories from Law School. It was a huge change in her life. She was newly divorced, a single parent of a 5 and 7 year old, and embarking on a totally new life. Her study group was the best. They were all kind enough to meet at her house because she had kids to care for at night. She also thinks one of the main reasons they met at her house was because she had a table with six chairs and always had lots of snacks because of the kids. Rich Caglia, Rob Cassio, Tracy Sagle, Kristine Howe, and Dave Moeck laughed so much around that table. Zipporah misses the friendships and camaraderie of law school and the DA's office. She also misses working as an attorney. But her life now is filled with worthwhile family and community projects. It's not a bad trade-off.

Season's Greetings

A heartfelt "thank you" to all our generous supporters who have made this year's giving already exceed last year's!

This year's annual fund gifts have exceeded \$25,000 to date; last year's gifts were just under \$12,000 at this same time. That's over a 100% increase! We are happy to know that even in difficult economic times, you realize the importance of supporting the law school.

By now you all should have received the Annual Fund letter featuring photos from the campus that you attended during law school and encouraging you to help us celebrate our 40th anniversary with a gift. Please remember a gift to the Annual Fund –no matter the size- works immediately. I also want to thank all our donors who have been added to SJCL's Donor Wall and those of you who have moved up to a new giving

society because of your generous gifts. We look forward to honoring all of you and the other fellow wall donors at our annual Donor Wall reception in January 2010-look for your invitation in the mail soon.

January is rapidly approaching which means it's that time of year, when we ask our scholarship donors to fund this much needed student program. SJCL currently offers 20 scholarships that are funded by generous alumni and supporters of the law school.

Scholarships are a great way to give back to law school and ensure a legacy for current and future students. If you are interested in donating to a scholarship or creating a new one, please contact the Advancement Department for details. Don't forget to attend the 2nd annual Pancake Breakfast to benefit the Elizabeth O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Fund, being held

in conjunction with Race Judicata again next year on February 20, 2010.

SJCL is in full swing of planning its 40th Anniversary All-Class Reunion in September of 2010 and we are looking for all interested alumni to participate on the planning committee. Some of you have already been sent letters requesting your participation, but the invitation extends to everyone. Our first planning meeting will be held on January 6, 2010 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at the law school. If you are interested in more information or want to attend this meeting please RSVP your attendance to me by calling (559)323-2100 or email me at rleppo@sjcl.edu.

Here's wishing your holiday season brings you peace and joy, and a prosperous new year, from all of us in the Advancement Department!

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.

2009 Donors

August 1, 2009– December 15, 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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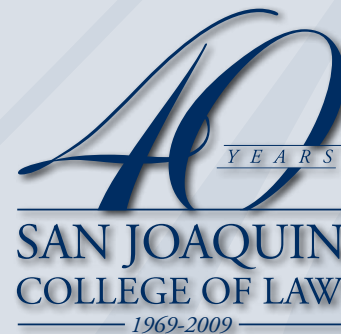


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6:00PM - 7:30PM
SJCL Main Foyer

*Wine & hors d'œuvres by
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Please plan to attend



*40th Anniversary
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9:00 - 10:30AM**

To benefit the Elizabeth O'Neill
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Race participation not required.




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