



# Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter  
Volume XXV, Number 4

## Winter 2014

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## 45th Anniversary Celebration

*A packed house and an atmosphere of high energy enveloped The Downtown Club on Friday, November 21st in celebration of SJCL's 45th Anniversary.*

The evening's honorees included founders John Loomis and Oliver Wanger, and 18 SJCL Alumni judges and commissioners.

In total, 38 members of the judiciary are graduates of SJCL. In addition, the California Health and Human Services Secretary, the former Deputy Director of the California Environmental Protection Agency, and practitioners in every area of public and private service are included among the ranks of SJCL alumni. Five graduates have held the post of District Attorney in four counties, including the current District Attorneys for Fresno and Kings counties.

Attendees at the reception included many additional members of the bench, alumni, current students, SJCL faculty and staff, and members of the legal community. Master of Ceremonies extraordinaire Hal Bolen introduced the honorees, and SJCL Alumni Association President Brande Gustafson presented each with an award to commemorate the occasion. In speeches about the early days of the law school, founders Loomis and Wanger remembered the need, some 45 years ago, for the opportunity to study law locally. From a \$200 investment in 1969, and countless hours of hard work and determination, SJCL has provided the legal education for over

1,400 law school graduates. Over a third of the attorneys in the Fresno Area are graduates of SJCL.

In addition to wine and hors d'oeuvres, guests at the reception were invited to participate in a video time capsule to be presented at SJCL's 50th Anniversary in five years. Attendees were asked to videotape their thoughts and hopes for the future of SJCL. We wish to thank all the sponsors and attendees for making our 45th Anniversary very special indeed.

See "45th" Page 8



FRONT ROW (L-R): Dean **Janice Pearson**, **Hon. Oliver Wanger** (Founder), **Hon. Elizabeth J. Parker** (Law '89), **Hon. Charles Wieland** (Law '83), **John Loomis** (Founder & Board), **Hon. Gary Austin** (Law '83)  
CENTER ROW (L-R): **Hon. Jose Banuelos** (Law '79), **Hon. Walter Johnsen** (Law '74), **Hon. Geoffrey Hamilton Sims** (Law '93), **Hon. James Donabed** (Law '78), **Hon. Houry Sanderson** (Law '87), **Hon. K. Diane Lushbough** (Law '88), **Hon. Rosemary T. McGuire** (Law '94), **Hon. Sharon L. Madsen** (Law '91), **Hon. Mark Vernon Bacciarini** (Law '98), **Hon. Ralph Putnam** (Law '75)  
BACK ROW (L-R): **Hon. Don Penner** (Law '74), **Hon. William Gunn** (Law '91), **Hon. Michael Jurkovich** (Law '90), **Hon. W. Richard Lee** (Law '85), **Hon. James Aaron** (Law '74)

*As the year comes to an end, I took a moment to think about all the people to whom the law school is grateful. The list is quite inspiring.*



Thank you to SJCL students who work hard to conquer the massive amount of material thrown at them during law school. The students graduate, pass the bar, and fly. They accomplish such amazing things.

Thank you to the full-time faculty who prepare and deliver classes but also must be involved in more administrative and accreditation matters than non-faculty can ever imagine.

Thank you to the adjunct faculty who give so much of their time and effort to give back to budding lawyers under their tutelage.

Thank you to SJCL's staff – the unsung heroes that make classes and student services actually happen. As a result of Sally's and Joan's retirements, several have stepped up to accept major new responsibilities.

Thank you to the Board of Trustees for loyally trying to chart a course for the law school.

Thank you to the Alumni Association for mastering events which serve the community so well – Senior Citizens Law Day, Got MCLE, Marjaree Mason Party, and the Judy Wiseman Golf Tournament which provides scholarships for students.

Thank you to so many donors – alumni and others – whose support makes the SJCL academic program and activities so much richer than they would otherwise be. Academically this year, generous support of the New American Legal Clinic (NALC) enabled students to provide free legal services to nearly 500 community members while gaining useful practical experience.

Gifts meant more than 25 scholarships were awarded. Two

substantial new scholarships were created as a result of partnerships between SJCL and the Hugh W. Goodwin Bar Association and the Educational Employees Credit Union. The College always is looking for more mutually beneficial community partnerships.

Gifts to the Annual Fund supported SJCL teams at external Moot Court competitions, scholarships for the editors of the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*, and NALC. They supported the enhanced first-year Legal Methods class. First year professors can already see an improvement in analysis and writing skills.

Sponsorships made the Hall of Fame and 45th Anniversary Reception stellar successes. Gifts to the funds to honor Sally Perring and Joan Lassley as they retired will make improvements to the SJCL building.

There is much more on the horizon for the College. 2015 will truly be a New Year for SJCL. As 2014 comes to a close – Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Each and every one from SJCL!

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## Inter Alia

Volume XXV, Number 4

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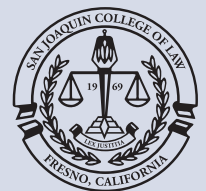
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# SJCL and the Hugh Goodwin Bar Association Offer a \$9,000 Scholarship

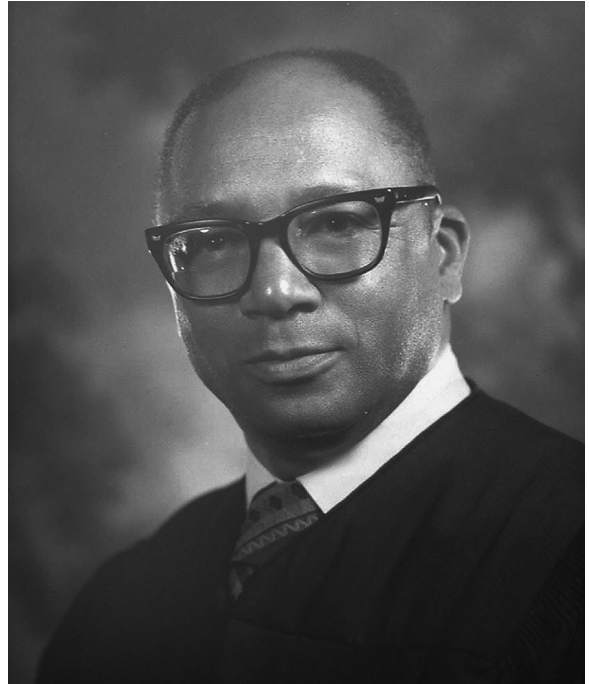
*San Joaquin College of Law and the Hugh Goodwin Bar Association are proud to announce the offer of a \$9,000 scholarship to an aspiring law student.*

By **Connie Broussand**, Vice President Hugh Goodwin Bar Association and **Brandon Gary**, Hugh Goodwin Bar Association Board Member

The Hugh Goodwin Bar Association Scholarship is given once a year to an entering law student who has demonstrated significant commitment to community service and an interest in practicing law in the Central Valley. As the cost of legal education continues to rise, the amount of student loan debt facing law students fortifies the barriers of entry to our time-honored profession, especially for those most in need of help. This scholarship seeks to increase access for individuals from underrepresented groups in the legal profession by defraying some of the costs of legal education.

The namesake of the scholarship, the Honorable Hugh Wesley Goodwin, Sr., was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown in 1976 as Fresno County's first African-American Judge. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Judge Goodwin became Fresno's first African-American attorney, opening his own law firm in the 1950s. An advocate for equality, Judge Goodwin organized a group from Fresno to join in support of the civil rights marches in Alabama in the 1960s. Judge Goodwin served as a member of both the Fresno City Council and the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

The Central Valley legal community is entering a time of incredible opportunities. Emerging technologies, expansion of local airports, and the building of the high speed rail system make it easier for attorneys living and practicing here in the Valley to reach farther than ever before. The unique character of our local bar fosters a true commitment to justice and an appreciation of camaraderie amongst our membership. Just as the areas of law we practice are diverse, so too should be our profession and our membership. San Joaquin College of Law and the Hugh Goodwin Bar Association offer this scholarship in the spirit of the life and practice of the Honorable Hugh Goodwin – to seek to encourage quality attorneys to remain in our Valley, and to increase the diversity of our profession, our firms and our local membership.



Honorable **Hugh Wesley Goodwin, Sr.**

Members of the Bar traditionally mentor and serve as role models for our successors. If you know an individual who satisfies the scholarship criteria, please encourage them to apply. For more information or an application, visit [www.sjcl.edu/GoodwinScholarship](http://www.sjcl.edu/GoodwinScholarship).

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## Full-Time Faculty

Justin B. Atkinson, Jessica Smith Bobadilla, Andreas Borgeas, Richard M. Cartier, Christine A. Goodrich, Denise M. Kerner, Janice L. Pearson, Gregory Olson, Jeffrey G. Purvis, Peter Rooney, Rose Safarian

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# SJALR Volume 23 Released

*Congratulations to the Editorial Board and Staff Members behind the recent release of the 23rd Volume of the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review!*

San Joaquin College of Law celebrated the event with a reception October 10, 2014 at the Elbow Room, where students, attorneys, alumni of previous volumes of the *SJALR*, members of the agricultural community, and others toasted its success.

While the *SJALR* is the oldest Agricultural Law Review in the Nation, its topics are as timely as today's headlines. The topics covered in Volume 23 are no exception.

Volume 23 continues the *SJALR*'s tradition of practical and objective analysis of legal issues relevant to the agricultural community. For an electronic copy of this, or previous volumes of the law review, or for information on how to submit an article, please see [www.sjcl.edu/sjalr](http://www.sjcl.edu/sjalr). The *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* Board is grateful for the continued readership and support of our journal.



The Editorial Board and writers for the 23rd Volume of the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*:  
(L-R): **Jarrett Rogers**, **Corina Burchfield**, *Production Editor* **David Benton**, **Sarah McNabb**, **Nichola Kresbsbach**, *Notes and Comments Editor* **Candace Clark-Talbot**, *Co-Editor-in-Chief* **Conlin Reis**, *Co-Editor-in-Chief* **Angelica Ambrose**, and *Executive Editor* **Amanda Kjar**.  
NOT PICTURED: *Articles Editor* **Bradley Kajebjian**, **Wesley Carlson**, **Carmen Kalashian**, **E. Nicole Kozycki**, **Elizabeth Thomasian**, and **Sally Noxon-Vecchiarelli**.

## Articles

*State-Level Aquaculture Leasing and Permitting Regulations: Balancing a Growing American Industry with Environmental Protection*  
Lauren Bernadett

*The Futile Exercise: Osgata v. Monsanto*  
Josh Hallenbeck & Mark Murphey Henry

## Comments

*Taking "Baby Steps" Towards Protecting our Children: Why Proposition 65 does not do Enough to Protect Infants from Lead Exposure*  
Corina Burchfield

*Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Finding a Solution to Food Waste in America*  
Carmen Kalashian

*Protecting National Security: How the United States Government put our Nation at Risk by Approving the Acquisition of Smithfield Foods by Shuanghui International*  
Nichola Garver Krebsbach

*California's Proposition 2 has Egg Producers Scrambling: Is it Constitutional?*  
Sarah McNabb

*An Equitable Proposal for Injunctive Relief to End Casualties in Cultivation*  
Katherine Pankow

*It's Everyone's Beeswax: How Weaknesses in the Federal Regulation of Pesticides Endanger the Environment and Threaten the Public Welfare*  
Jarrett Rogers

*Playing Politics with Food: Comparing Labeling Regulations of Genetically Engineered Foods Across the North Atlantic in the United States and European Union*  
Tiffany B. Wong

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# So, Cite Me!

This synopsis of a recent student comment featured in the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* is part of an ongoing series for Fresno County Bar Association's Bar Bulletin. The *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*, founded in 1991, is the oldest agricultural law review in the nation. It is published annually by students of San Joaquin College of Law, and presents student and scholar works on legal topics of current interest to those in agriculture, government, business and law. Its articles and comments have been cited by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, the California Supreme Court, the Minnesota Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal for the Fifth District of California and the New Mexico Court of Appeals among others. The complete Comment is available on line, along with the entire 23rd Volume and the previous 22 Volumes at [www.SJCL.edu/SJALR](http://www.SJCL.edu/SJALR). Professional articles are always welcome. Contact Volume 24 SJALR Executive Editor Jarrett Rogers at [Jarrett.Rogers@student.SJCL.edu](mailto:Jarrett.Rogers@student.SJCL.edu) for more information.

## Taking "Baby Steps" Towards Protecting Our Children: Why Proposition 65 Does Not Do Enough To Protect Infants From Lead Exposure

By Corina Burchfield, Production Editor  
23 San Joaquin Agric. L. Rev. 75  
*San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*

An environmental group recently discovered that several brands and flavors of pureed baby foods were found to contain lead. In a subsequent civil suit against major baby food companies, including Gerber and Beech-Nut, it was alleged that brands and flavors containing lead should bear a warning pursuant to Proposition 65. Proposition 65 is a California law that requires any prod-

uct containing an enumerated dangerous substance to include a clear and reasonable warning, unless the substance is "naturally occurring" or falls below a specified "safe harbor" level. When confronted with this lawsuit, the baby food companies conceded that there was some level of lead contained in particular stages and flavors of their products; however, the companies claimed that both the "naturally occurring" and "safe harbor" level exemptions to the warning requirement were applicable, and thus, their products did not necessitate a warning.

This comment substantiates that baby food containing lead that is specifically marketed for children under the age of two should not be subject to the exemptions outlined in Proposition 65. There is not a safe of level of lead for such young children, and parents should be given a fair warning that the food they are giving their child contains this toxic chemical. Once these food manufacturers are required to give a warning, the hope is that they will then make serious efforts to eliminate lead from all of their foods, as a warning would seemingly have a drastic effect on their business.

This comment provides background information on lead poisoning as it pertains to children, the baby food market, and why Proposition 65 does not do enough to protect children under the age of two. This comment goes on to analyze both the "safe harbor" and "naturally occurring" exemptions found in Proposition 65, as they pertain to baby food. Further, there is an explanation as to why these exemptions should not apply when the food in question is marketed toward children under the age of two. This comment discusses the ways that children are protected from Bisphenol-A ("BPA") and lead in paint and how the public policy behind these protections should be applied when there is lead unearthed in baby food. This comment also analyzes the feasibility of providing

a warning to consumers or eradicating the problem. Finally, this comment recommends providing a warning on baby foods that contain lead and explains how that could potentially induce baby food companies to eliminate lead from their product altogether.



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*Notes & Comments Editor*

Professional articles are always welcome.  
For more information contact:

**Jarrett Rogers**  
*Executive Editor*  
[Jarrett.Rogers@student.sjcl.edu](mailto:Jarrett.Rogers@student.sjcl.edu)

# Celebrating 31 Barpassers!

*The frantic call came on a Friday night, shortly after six.*

*“Mom, I Can’t Believe I Passed, I’m Soooo...”*

*“Are you OK? I can’t understand you; you are crying so hard! Where are you? What’s going on? Do you want me to come and get you? Are you OK?”*

*“Mom, I’m a lawyer!”*



Courtney Caron’s Mom wasn’t the only mom celebrating at the November 24th Barpassers champagne reception. Angelica Ambrose says when she discovered she was among the 31 SJCL Barpassers, she called her mom, who came over to her house to celebrate with champagne. Then they went out to celebrate with more champagne. The Barpassers reception was the third time the celebratory glasses were lifted. Angelica is working for the law firm of Daniel A. Bacon.

Lisa Kjar was also there to toast her daughter, Amanda, just as she had toasted her other daughter, Danielle, at the same event last year. She says when her daughters were young, her husband would drive around town, showing them various neighborhoods and telling them they needed to work hard if they wanted a nicer home. She says the message stuck. Danielle Kjar (Law ’13) is an associate attorney at Parker, Kern, Nard & Wenzel. Amanda has been clerking there, but passing the bar changes that

status. Barpasser Candace Clark-Talbot was also picked up by the same firm.

With those additions, 13 SJCL alumni are currently work at the firm, including Senior Partner, Dennis Nard.

While only 21 of the 31 barpassers were able to attend the Champagne reception, more than three-quarters of them told us they are already working as attorneys. Two are at the Fresno District Attorney’s Office, but most were hired by private practice firms, including McCormick Barstow, Pascuzzi, Pascuzzi & Stoker, Salazar & Cook LLP, Sutton Hague Law Corporation, Webb & Bordson, Frame Matsumoto & Coelho LLP, Floyd Skeren & Kelly LLP, and others.

The atmosphere at the reception was warm with tales of struggles overcome and delirious joy. Barpassers Peter Aguayo and John Simonson exchanged rich stories mixed with seemingly small details. Peter talked about the restaurant near the site of his bar exam which served homemade noodles, sustaining him through the three day event. John said he wasn’t open to taking such culinary chances. He pre-made all the food he would eat during the three days, brought a microwave to his hotel room, and ate the same thing every day at the same time he ate it during his months of bar prep. He figured he was prepping for a fight and wasn’t about to break training. Passing the bar? It’s all about tenacity.

**FRONT ROW (L-R): Amanda Kjar, Candace Clark, Courtney Caron, Julie MacMichael, Libby Hellwig, Linda Barreto, Heather Spurling, and Ashley Mohammadi.**

**CENTER ROW (L-R): David Benton, Charles Hamamjian, David Olmos, Peter Aguayo, Wes Carlson, Carol Ann Seita, and Angelica Ambrose.**

**BACK ROW (L-R): Justin Vecchiarelli, William Freeman, John Simonson, Tanvir Joshi, Conlin Reis, and Andrew Antaramian.**

**NOT PICTURED: Randy Bell, Anthony Dejager, Jennifer Deruosi, Elizabeth Kozycki, Michael McAfee, Catherine McLaughlin, Sengchong Moua, Lacey O’Brien, Gabriel Pacheco, and Allysa Wolfe.**

# SJCL Partners with EECU for Law Scholarships

*San Joaquin College of Law is partnering with Educational Employees Credit Union to offer both a \$9,000 scholarship to an incoming student and a \$4,500 scholarship to a current second-year SJCL student.*

The partnership is a natural one. Both the Law School and EECU see the value of education as more than just a vehicle to personal enrichment; educated communities see enhancements ranging from economic growth to cultural enrichment, improved health, and decreased crime. The partnership also enhances EECU's ongoing outreach efforts, which include its Student Grant Program, sponsorship of Excellence in Education Awards for the Valley's top educators, and support of Central Valley Honor Flight.

SJCL and EECU hope the scholarships help stem the flow of the "Brain Drain," where many of the brightest young minds in the Valley go away to school, never to return. A bachelor's degree in any major qualifies an individual to ap-

ply to SJCL. Meanwhile, the need for attorneys in the Valley remains strong. SJCL offers Valley residents a chance to attend evening classes at the Law School while maintaining a job, or attend full-time day classes and graduate in three years. It is also among the most affordable law schools in the state. The EECU scholarships help make that education even more affordable.

To qualify for the \$9,000 EECU/SJCL Scholarship for an incoming student, a candidate must submit an application to SJCL and be deemed admissible, be a member of EECU as of February 15th, prior to the intended enrollment year, submit a resume showing an established record of community service, and submit an essay of no more than 500 words explaining why he or she is interested in

practicing law in the Valley. The deadline for the EECU/SJCL Scholarship application is May 15th.

To qualify for the \$4,500 EECU Scholarship for a second-year SJCL student, a candidate must be a student in good standing at SJCL, be a member of EECU as of September 1st of the year prior to which the scholarship is awarded, submit a resume showing an established record of community service, and submit an essay of no more than 500 words explaining why he or she is interested in practicing law in the San Joaquin Valley. The SJCL Scholarship Committee will set the deadline for this scholarship in January.

For more information, contact San Joaquin College of Law.

## Bar Admissions Ceremony

*"I predict that today will be remembered as one of the most important days of your lives." Acting Presiding Justice Herbert Levy addressed the attorneys-to-be at the bar admissions swearing-in ceremony on December 3rd.*

At a court hearing convened solely for this purpose, 16 fresh SJCL barpassers took the oath of Admission to the State Bar of California, and to practice in Federal Court. Family, friends, and representatives of the legal community packed a jury assembly room at the B.F. Sisk Courthouse to celebrate the auspicious occasion with encouraging speeches and light-hearted merriment. Special guests spoke of the significance of reputation and courtroom decorum, as well as the noble nature of the practice of law. "This profession is interesting, challenging, and meaningful," said Associate Justice Jennifer Detjen. "The strength and credibility of the system is only as good as the people in it, and your reputation starts today."



*Sixteen of the 31 July Barpassers celebrated at a reception, sponsored by the Fresno County Young Lawyers, following the swearing-in ceremony on December 3rd.*

FRONT ROW (L-R): **David Benton, Libby Hellwig, Andrew Antaramian, Linda Barreto, and Amanda Kjar**

CENTER ROW (L-R): **Julie MacMichael, Catie McLaughlin, Lacey O'Brien, Ashley Mohammadi (plus son), and Candace Clark**

BACK ROW (L-R): **Conlin Reis, Peter Aguayo, Angelica Ambrose, Gabriel Pacheco, John Simonson, and David Olmos**

# 45th Anniversary Celebration



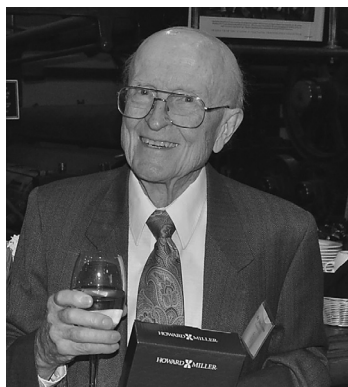
(L-R): Professor **Andreas Borgeas**, **Ross Borba** (Board), **Nancy Flynn**, and Dean **Jan Pearson**



(L-R): **Jody Winter** (Law '06), **Hon. Ralph Putnam** (Law '75), **Carol Putnam**, and **Hon. Gary Austin** (Law '76),



(L-R): **Liz Molina**, **Shelly Palmer** and **Charles Palmer** (Law '13)



**John Loomis** (Founder & Board)



(L-R): **Shannon Harding** (Law '00), **Kathleen McKenna** (Law '99), **Debora Bolen** and **Hal Bolen** (Emcee)



(L-R): **Hon. James Donabed** (Law '78 ), **Maj Skouti**, and **Hon. Walter Johnsen** (Law '74)



**Deborah Boyett** (Law '01), Professor **Rose Safarian**, and **Flora Istanboulian** (Law '87)





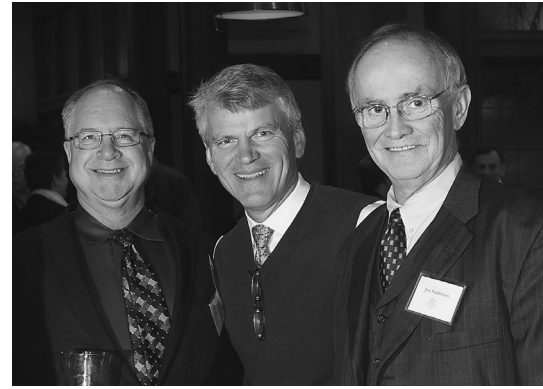
**Melissa L. White (Law '96) and Hon. Oliver Wanger (Founder)**

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**Karen Mathes (Law '95) and Joan Levie (Law '95)**

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**Doug Haas (Law '82), Bob Whalen (Board), and Jim Sanderson**

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**Hon. Robert Oliver (Board) and Hon. Gary Hoff**

---



**Melissa Resendez and Hon. Geoffrey Sims (Law '93)**

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**Jody Winter (Law '06), Hon. Rosemary McGuire ('94), and Russ Conrad**

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**Ann Bennett-Mason (Law '01) and Greg Mason**

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**(L-R): Joyce Morodomi (Staff), Brande Gustafson (Law '09), and Lisa Sondergaard Smittcamp (Law '95 & Board)**

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**Anne Kinzel (Law '87), Howard Watkins, and Hon. Houry Sanderson (Law '87)**

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# Moot Court Competition



(L-R): Jeffrey Robinson (2L), Alexander Newsum (2L), Moot Court Professor Kathy McKenna, the Hon. Stanley Boone, the Hon. Stephen Kane, the Hon. Jonathan Conklin, Whitney Northington (2L), Chris LeFever (2L), and Moot Court Professor Shawna Braun

The four finalists from SJCL's Fall 2014 George A. Hopper Moot Court Competition filed back into the courtroom. Having concluded their oral arguments, they re-took their seats at the attorney tables facing the bench. The judges, U.S. Magistrate Stanley Boone, Fifth District Court of Appeal Justice Stephen Kane, and Superior Court Judge Jonathan Conklin, waited silently to announce their decision. Smiles began to creep over their faces. Justice Kane, an appellate court judge appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, broke the tension. "Honestly, on a scale of 1-10, how much fun was that?" Relief and laughter accompanied the students' answers: two "eights", a "seven" and a "five." Best Oral Advocate winner Whitney Northington had the biggest laugh. While addressing a question from Judge Boone on her 1st Amendment petition, she inadvertently admitted to being "not a reasonable person." "As an attorney, that's not something you want to share with the court," laughed Judge Boone.

The judges said Northington's confident answers had impressed them. "My pet peeve," Judge Boone confided, "is when trial attorneys fail to answer the question with either a yes or a no." The court asks you (attorneys) questions for a reason, not just to mess with you," he added.

Justice Kane told the students that they wouldn't be barraged quite as much in a real courtroom, but that they had handled themselves well under the pressure. "We could have interrupted you all day, but none of you got rattled. It's a sign that you knew your case, which is what good advocates do," he said.

Judge Conklin encouraged the students to get experience doing appellate work because "it makes you better," he said. "You learn to think from the appellate perspective, which can enhance your skills as a trial attorney."

Moot Court Coaches for fall 2014, Kathy McKenna and Shawna Braun, said they were pleased with the work students put into their briefs. "Overall, the students showed tremendous growth. Their oral advocacy skills improved a great deal in the short time that they practiced for the competition," said McKenna. "I feel confident that they are unlikely to face any stiffer questioning in a 'real' court case – be it in the appellate setting or in trial or motions practice – than they faced in the competition."

In all, 15 students prepared briefs. All but four were eliminated after the 2nd round. The finalists were: 1st Amendment Petitioner – Whitney Northington; 1st Amendment Respondent

– Jeffrey Robinson: Armed Career Criminal Act Petitioner – Alexander Newsum: and Armed Career Criminal Act Respondent – Chris LeFever. In addition to Northington's Best Oral Advocate award, the Best Brief honor was shared by Chris LeFever and Alexander Newsum. All three students received plaques, and their names will be added to the perpetual Moot Court plaque in the upstairs hallway at SJCL.

## Special Thanks to our Moot Court Judges

Dede Agrava  
Associate Dean Justin Atkinson  
Hon. Stanley Boone  
Hon. Jonathan Conklin  
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## STUDENT PROFILE

# Leila Alamri-Kassim

*Leila Alamri-Kassim (3L) is no stranger to achievement and success. In the past two months, she was awarded both the 2014 Justice George Hopper Memorial Scholarship and the 2014 Justice Pauline Hanson Scholarship.*

Leila has also received two Witkin Awards for Academic Excellence. She has been an overachiever since high school, where she won an award for writing as the editor of the newspaper. Leila attended the highly competitive Smittcamp Family Honors College with a full four-year President's Honors Scholarship at Fresno State.

"It was sort of scary going in, but being surrounded by 50 of the best students in the Valley encouraged me to think about what I could do," Leila said. Though she comes from an academically minded family - her mother is a teacher, her sister a PhD candidate, and her brother a political science major and app developer; Leila is the first member of her family to go to law school. "I wasn't one of those students who always wanted to be a lawyer," she said. She enrolled at Fresno State with a double major in Women's Studies and Political Science, and a minor in Middle Eastern Studies. Leila remained politically active throughout her undergrad years serving with the Muslim Students Association, and the Ribbons of Hope project for Ground Zero in New York. She graduated summa cum laude from Fresno State. Her political science professors encouraged her to think about law school.

"I definitely want to work in social justice," Leila said, now in her 3rd year. "I've already had lots of immigration experience with Professor Bobadilla in her immigration practice as well as at NALC." Leila has also worked as a volunteer at the Marjaree Mason Center, and clerked for Hon. District Judge Anthony Ishii. If that weren't enough, Leila got married after graduating from Fresno State. "We are very family oriented," she said. "Married life keeps me grounded." As SJCL celebrates its 45th year in education, we're proud to count Leila Alamri-Kassim among our outstanding student body.

Congratulations Leila on all your success. Keep up the great work!

## SBA News

By **Roshana Shirzad**, SBA President

I would like to start by saying congratulations to all of the 1L's for getting through their first semester. It is indeed a great accomplishment and I am very proud of each and every single one of you! As you all embark on your second and final semester of your grueling first year, I would like to encourage you all to take the time to enjoy your winter vacation and enjoy the holidays with your family and friends. You all are very smart individuals and the power of success is in believing in yourself. You have made it this far; you can make it through this entire journey. You know the saying "work hard, play hard."

This year has already been so busy for the Student Bar Association. We are getting things in order for JUSTicia RUN and the Annual Scholarship Banquet, two of the biggest events SBA puts on.

JUSTicia RUN will be taking place on February 14, 2015, Valentines Day! Registration is currently open and ready for everyone to sign up. There is a discount code for San Joaquin College of Law students by entering "iamsjclstudent." The student will receive \$10 off. This event is always such a huge turnout and I encourage the students and the community to get involved and JUST RUN. It's not a bad way to work off the copious amounts of turkey and pumpkin pie consumed the last couple of weeks.

In addition, the Student Bar Association is working diligently to make sure this year's Annual Scholarship Banquet is the best one yet! The theme this year will be "The Black Tie Affair." Our event location is close to home at the Classic Catering Company. This year's banquet is truly going to be bitter-sweet for me. I have been a part of the SBA the last four years and have always helped with this wonderful event - and now, this is going to be my last time! A Black Tie Affair is going to be a beautiful and magical night celebrating the stars of this wonderful school. More information will come out and invitations will be sent in the beginning of the New Year.



# Dear Faux Amici

By **Jeffrey G. Purvis**, Professor of Law

There are write-in advice and answer columns in hundreds of newspapers, magazines, and blogs, addressing every conceivable topic. But how many of these openly address fabricated e-mails from “audience” members who are admittedly imaginary? Only one! “Valley Views on the Law,” San Joaquin College of Law’s monthly legal information radio show on FM 88.1. KFCF, in Fresno, does just that. In the “Dear Professors” segment, I answer the pressing and topical legal questions generated by my own perfervid imagination (along with one actual e-mail from an actual listener) every month, for the edification of the audience. You can also send me an e-mail to JPurvis@SJCL.edu. Here are some recent ones preceding a discussion of debt collection.

## Dear Professors

*I don't understand what the big deal is about debt collection practices. Let's not forget what the debt collectors are doing—trying to get some deadbeat to pay what he owes. By the time a debt collector takes action, the original creditor has already tried to get payment and waited several months, losing money all the while. Then the creditor finally sells the debt for a huge discount to the debt collector. So what if the debt collector gets a little aggressive—what possible justification is there for not paying what you owe? I'm not a mean person—I can understand helping the downtrodden and equal rights for all, but I don't get why anyone, liberal or conservative, would be on the side of people who don't pay their debts.*

—Jim Sensenbrenner  
Shorewood, Wisconsin

If the only thing involved here were reconciling a balance sheet, then I might appreciate your position, Mr. Sensenbrenner, but because we are dealing with human beings, your approach seems simplistic and heartless. According to my research in preparation

for this show, spending by consumers accounts for about 70% of the United States economy. Speaking from personal experience, Americans are bombarded by relentless advertisements and offers of credit, all designed to promote spending as much as possible. Billions of dollars are spent by marketers whose goal is to make it appear that happiness can be obtained by purchasing their goods and services. All consumers hear is “you’re pre-approved” and “no interest for several years” and uncounted similar come-ons without any suggestion that purchases should be paid for with money accumulated in advance.

All this in a society where, thanks to the unremitting greed of the wealthy, millions of people earn less than enough to pay for the necessities. A full time job at the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour means a person earns \$14,400 per year. I am a wealthy law professor, and that wouldn’t even cover the mortgage payments on my palatial 1300 square foot home in Fresno. And what happens when a greeter at Walmart gets behind on their debts and can’t cover a payment? They are lured to take out “paycheck advance” loans with effective interest rates ranging from 300 to nearly 4,000 percent per year, loans that trap them into debt slavery for years or that they are never able to pay off.

Some time ago a very clever lawyer or businessperson working for a corporation that owed a great deal of money to its retirees or to employees who had contracted white lung disease from the working conditions they were forced to endure discovered that the corporation could largely eliminate those debts by entering bankruptcy. At the end of such a “reorganization” bankruptcy the company continues to operate, paying obscenely high compensation to the executives in charge. Are such companies described in the general or business press as “deadbeats”? No. Are they vilified for avoiding their financial obligations, for



Professor **Jeffrey G. Purvis**

promising to make payments that they never make, for expending more money than their income justified? No. They are praised for having dealt with a difficult financial situation in a very profitable way. And because of the way our laws are structured to favor the wealthy, the shareholders in these corporations are never at risk of losing any dividends or other monies they received while the corporation was profiting from the use or sale of asbestos, to cite one example. Meanwhile, the guardian of our liberty, the Supreme Court of the United States, declares that corporations are just a means by which shareholders organize their property, so to protect the wealthy shareholders the corporations must have all the constitutional rights that human Americans have.

In my view, this is the context in which we should make political, social, and moral judgments about consumer debt and debt collection practices. Consumer debtors are not moral pariahs who deserve all the abuse a predatory economic system can heap on them. We will talk to our guest about what kinds of abuse debtors suffer, and we should thank her and the few like her who seek to protect those our financial system victimizes.

# LawSUIT Encourages Student Success

*This fall, LawSUIT hosted an Outlining Review Session, a Finals Review Session, and a Mentor/Mentee program to help students manage the challenges.*

By **Virginia Madrid-Salazar**, *LawSUIT President*

The first year of law school presents many challenges. SJCL's student organization Law Students United in Tolerance (LawSUIT) works to build a sense of unity among members to provide support and encouragement to first year students adjusting to law school life.

Participating upper division students have said they appreciate the help LawSUIT provided them during their first-year struggle and want to give back by helping incoming students. In that effort they have provided first-year students with tips and guidance on developing outlines, and walked through past exams to show first-year students how to approach Torts, Civil Procedure and Contracts exams. The Mentor/Mentee program allows first-year students to have one-on-one connections with upper division students who answer basic questions or share advice on how to manage work, school or family issues.

In addition to the student support, another annual objective of LawSUIT is to encourage student participation in philanthropic events. The Fourth Annual Food and Coat drive gives students and SJCL staff an opportunity to make donations to the Poverello House. LawSUIT will continue this effort and will collect canned food as an entry fee into our Spring Finals Review Session.

The following students are available as LawSUIT Mentors: Leila Alamri-Kasim, Joe Alindajao, Brittaney Bonilla, Thais Bueno-Nielson, Jeff Castleton, Bill Chaddock, Michelle Errechart, Sandra Gutierrez, Chris LeFever, Virginia Madrid-Salazar, D'Artagnon Montrose, Veronica Peña, Nellie Peloian, and Sundip Singh.



First-year students receiving tips and guidance on their first year of law school.



Wrapping the box for the annual food and coat drive.

# Alumni Association Shares Comfort and Joy

*“Do you hear something?” KMPH Great Day co-host Kopi Sotiropulos put a hand to his ear and surveyed the gathering of children and their mothers.*

Forty children from the Marjaree Mason Center stopped mid-lunch to crane their necks and listen. A hush fell over SJCL’s room 210. Eyes widened. “What was that? I heard something on the roof!” The annual SJCL Alumni Association sponsored Christmas party was about to reach a crescendo of anticipation and delight. After a few trips through the buffet and carols with the Clovis High Choir, the children were bursting with excitement for the headliner to arrive. Finally the jingle of huge bells filled the hallway and a hearty Ho Ho Ho burst through the doorway even before the gentleman in red himself. “It’s Santa!” they yelled. Next came the inquisition. Are you really Santa Claus? Why do you look different this time? Where’s your son? Are those presents real? Do you remember me? Did you fly here? Where are the reindeer? The magic was unleashed and could not be contained.

As names were called, Kopi and Santa presented gifts that had been specially purchased according to each child’s wish list, by the SJCL Alumni Association. The evening wrapped up with gifts for the mothers, beanie babies, and cookies.



*Congratulations to the SJCL Alumni Association for another great party for the kids and moms in the Marjaree Mason Center. We can’t show you the faces of moms and kids, but you can see their joy reflected in ours!*

FRONT ROW (L-R): **Kopi Sotiropolis** (thank you KMPH Great Day!), Santa (**Rick Horowitz**, Law ’06), and **Brande Gustafson** (Law ’09).

BACK ROW (L-R): **Roger Wilson** (Law ’97), **Kasi Welte** (Staff), **Joan Lassley** (Retired Staff), **Diane Skouti** (Staff), **Kyle Roberson** (Law ’12), **Beth Pitcock** (Staff), **Joyce Morodomi** (Staff), **Kristina Garabedian** (Law ’14), and Professor **Jessica Bobadilla**.

Kristina Garabedian (Law ’14), once again provided cozy fleece blankets and scarves for everyone, and SJCL Public Information Officer Missy McKai Cartier made sure there was a book for each child. Gratitude and happiness radiated from the faces of the guests and spoke

volumes more than words of thanks could express. The SJCL Alumni Association wishes to thank everyone who so generously donated to the Marjaree Mason Christmas party, and took time from their busy schedules to be part of such a happy occasion.

## Senior Law Day

Thanks to the SJCL Alumni Association, Central California Legal Services (CCLS), Department of Motor Vehicles, and SJCL students who worked so hard to make this year’s Senior Law Day a huge success! Dozens of Senior Citizens got information on wills, trusts, retention of driving privileges, and more. Many also had free consultations with CCLS attorneys.



(L-R): **Jim Miller** (Alumni Board & Law ’07), **Jamie Xiong** (CCLS), **Brande Gustafson** (Alumni Board President & Law ’09), **Paul Mullen** (CCLS), **Ismael Anda** (DMV Ombudsman), **Deborah Boyett** (Law ’01), **Robert Abrams** (Law ’08), and **Beth Waldow** (Alumni Board Secretary, Senior Law Day Chair, & Law ’09).

ALSO ATTENDING BUT NOT PICTURED:  
**Dr. David Margolin** (Law ’11).

# Thank you for your support!

August 1 – December 15, 2014

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**Saturday, February 14, 2015**

The race benefits Clovis Police Foundation, Sierra Challenge Express Running Club and SBA. The annual Elizabeth O'Neill Memorial Children's Book Drive is also part of the race.

5K Run – \$25

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This tournament was established in honor of Judy Wiseman, a San Joaquin College of Law student who succumbed to cancer in 2002. The Alumni Association will use proceeds from this tournament to fund San Joaquin College of Law Student Scholarships.



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