



Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

Volume XXVII, Number 2

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Congratulations to the Class of 2016

On Saturday, May 28, 2016, San Joaquin College of Law celebrated its 43rd graduating class.

Diego Andrade had a story to share with his fellow grads as he walked across the stage of the Saroyan Theater during the May 28th Commencement Ceremonies. Professor Greg Olson, who was assigned the honor of Presentation of Graduates, read it to the packed house:

“Two little mice fell in a bucket of cream. The first mouse quickly gave up and drowned. The second mouse wouldn’t quit. He struggled so hard that eventually he churned that cream into butter and crawled out. Ladies and Gentlemen, as of this moment, Diego is that second mouse.”

Many of the 46 graduates had faced those churning challenges.

Single mother Jacquelin Curry thanked her seven children for their constant belief that “we could do this.” Denise Ruiz, who attended San Joaquin College of Law while teaching First Grade in Selma, says she plans to honor the request of her own two children, who believe that law school was so difficult for them that they now deserve a Disney Cruise. Meanwhile, William Chaddock admitted his children have a “stack of IOUs for bedtime stories, payable now.”

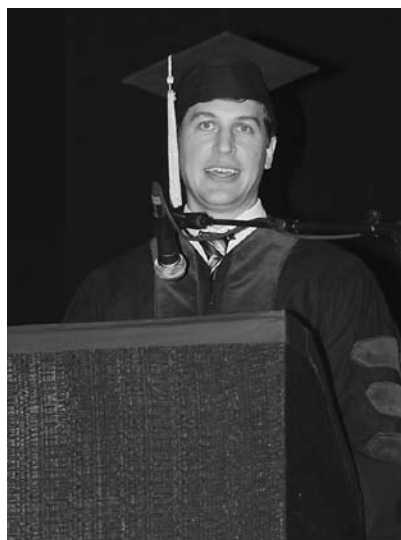
Others faced the obstacle of distance. Monique Galvan commuted to SJCL from Bakersfield, travelling, in her estimation, approximately 100,000 miles by train, bus and two cars. On the bright side, she is already building her reputation in Bakersfield, having clerked for several Kern County Superior Court Judges. Other classmates clerked everywhere from San Luis Obispo to Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kings Counties.

Despite obstacles and the difficulty of law school, the overall mood of the graduates was gratitude. Valedictorian

See **Graduation** on page 10



Chris A. Schneider
Commencement Speaker



Chris Anthony LeFever
Valedictorian



Nichola Garver Krebsbach
John Loomis Legacy Award Recipient

From J.D. to D.E.A.

His parents dreamed that he would inherit the family's business but Kendall Reynolds had a dream of his own.

Reynold's new position as a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration may seem like a detour from the normal path taken following law school, but the 2012 grad of SJCL says it was exactly his dream since high school.



also knew he would need an advanced degree to make that dream come true.

He dipped his toe in the pool while he was completing his degree in Criminology at Fresno State, taking on an internship with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. He says he knew then he was on the right path.

While attending SJCL, he interned for both the Fresno and Tulare District Attorney's Offices. The Fresno D.A.'s Office made him an offer as he prepared for the Bar: You pass, and you're hired. He learned he passed on a Friday. The following Monday he was sworn in to the State Bar and as a Deputy District Attorney. The next day, he was in court.

Nearly three years later, Reynolds learned he was one of the 48 people chosen out of 8,000 applications for a position as a Special Agent for the D.E.A. Reynolds says it was a hard decision, not because he lost his desire to be a Special Agent, but rather because of his affection for his position as a prosecutor.

"I worked with great people, developed great friendships, and professional relationships," he says. "I loved being a D.A. because I grew

up in this community and I felt that, as a D.A., I made a positive impact."

"I lean on that experience of dealing not only with the law, but also dealing with victims, the public, and other attorneys."

He adds his law degree not only gave him the opportunity to apply for the position, but also honed his analytic and writing skills. As a Special Agent, Reynolds primarily focuses on going after large-scale drug traffickers, both on the international and domestic fronts. He says the D.E.A.'s breadth and reach is tremendous; it has offices in 67 countries and divisions ranging from aviation to diversion control.

He sees more than just future opportunities; he sees current satisfaction. Whereas he previously prosecuted drug cases, he says he can now "have a real pro-active, hands-on impact, in that by taking out major narcotics distributors, I can hopefully prevent future street-level crimes. More importantly, it may prevent drugs from getting into the hands of future users."

Reynolds says he is a "huge Giants fan" who plays guitar in his spare time, but confides he is only "a solo, secret artist."

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The Triumphs of Traynor

San Joaquin College of Law would like to thank the other 13 law schools which took part in the 47th Annual Roger J. Traynor California Appellate Moot Court Competition.

The 47th Annual Roger J. Traynor California Appellate Moot Court Competition took place on the weekend of April 2nd. Competition was fierce and SJCL congratulates McGeorge School of Law, which swept the awards.

Other schools in the competition included: American University Washington College of Law, Concord Law School, Empire School of Law, John F. Kennedy University College of Law, Loyola Law School, Pepperdine University School of Law, University of California Davis School of Law, University of California, Hastings College of the Law, University of California Los Angeles School of Law, and University of West Los Angeles.

Special thanks goes to the Hon. Stanley Boone and the Federal Bar Association, San Joaquin Valley Chapter, for opening the doors to our beautiful Federal Courthouse for this competition.

We would also like to thank the many attorneys and judges without whose help this would not have been possible. They include: Todd Baxter, Byron Beebe, Catherine Bennett, Hon. Stanley Boone, Hon. Ming Chin, Hon. Jonathan Conklin, Haley Cose, David DeFrank, Kathleen DeSantis, Hon. Norman Epstein, Hon. Erica Grosjean, Hon. Matthew



SJCL's TRAYNOR TEAM (L-R): *Professor Shawna Braun, Veronica Pena (Law '16), Raquel Busani, Lenora Barnes, and Professor Kathy McKenna (Law '99).*

Brief Writing

William A. Rutter Award

- 1st – McGeorge School of Law
- 2nd – Golden Gate University
- 3rd – San Joaquin College of Law

Excellence in Appellate Advocacy

The Bernard E. Witkin Award

- 1st – McGeorge School of Law
- 2nd – Golden Gate University
- 3rd – University of California Berkeley School of Law

Oral Argument

The Roger J. Traynor Award

- 1st – McGeorge School of Law
- 2nd – University of California Berkeley School of Law

Guasco, Sara Hedgpeth-Harris, Robert Hillison, Lee Jacobson, Daniel Jamison, Philip Johnson, Hon. Heather Mardel Jones, Warren Paboojian, Ivy Paek, Hon. Rosendo Pena, Jr., Scott Reddie,

Hon. Michael Seng, Jeanine Strong, Philip Tavlian, Hon. James Thaxter, Lynne Thaxter Brown, James Wagoner, Walt Whelan, Roger Wilson, and Anastaysa Uskov.

Full-Time Faculty

Justin B. Atkinson, Jessica Smith Bobadilla, Andreas Borgeas, Christine A. Goodrich, Denise M. Kerner, Gregory Olson, Janice L. Pearson, Jeffrey G. Purvis, Rose Safarian, and Alicia Diaz Wrest

Adjunct Faculty

Thomas H. Armstrong, Lawrence M. Artenian, Arthur G. Baggett, Jr., Barry J. Bennett, Alyson A. Berg, Hon. Stanley A. Boone, Shawna Braun, David M. Camenson, Daniel E. Casas, Phillip H. Cherney, Hon. Erin M. Childs, Lisa B. Coffman, Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Hon. Mark E. Cullers, Niki Cunningham, Matthew R. Dardenne, Marc Days, Matthew Farmer, Peter Fashing, Mia Giacomazzi, Daniel Griffin, David J. Guy, Jason P. Hamm, Scott C. Hawkins, Rachel Hill, Philip Johnson, Paul Kerkorian, Kathi Kesselman, Stefanie J. Krause, Andrew S. Kucera, Michael R. Linden, Jeremy K. Lusk, Mark Masters, Kathleen McKenna, Steven McQuillan, Devon McTeer, Mark D. Miller, Hilda Cantú Montoy, David Mugridge, James Mugridge, John M. O'Connor, Nelson Richards, Christina A. Roberson, Dan Rogers, Gary W. Sawyers, Kathleen Servatius, Babak Shakoory, Hon. Michael Sheltzer, Shara Tirapelle, Anastaysa Uskov, George J. Vasquez, Kaycie Wall, and Melissa L. White

An Internship in Immigration

“If you stole food from a grocery store in order to feed your kid...”

Patrick Rossiter’s voice trails off. He reveals he actually heard that story this semester from a woman while he was working in San Joaquin College of Law’s New American Legal Clinic, or “NALC.” As he heads into his final year of law school, Rossiter says he’s always had an interest in criminal law, and working in the immigration clinic has been “eye opening.”

Rossiter adds that while it is sometimes “hard to connect the person with the crime they committed,” working on more than a dozen cases in the NALC has shown him the “everyday people” behind the charges. Many cases were “difficult to hear,” especially those involving domestic violence victims applying for U-Visas. He believes any student interested in criminal defense or prosecution would learn a lot from working this aspect of immigration, and he’s not alone; ten students have

already signed up to work in NALC this summer.

Rossiter says he is grateful for the environment of the Clinic, where two professors guide his work, rather than being at a private law firm where “They give you a file and throw you to the wolves. Sink or swim.”

Professor Greg Olson, the Legal Director for NALC, says there is definitely a need for its services. The Clinic is on track to help 340 legal immigrants this year, but the demand is even greater. Two of the clinic’s former SJCL interns have since graduated and opened their own immigration law practices, while others have gone on to work for firms specializing in immigration.

As for the woman convicted of shoplifting bread for her child, Professor Olson says the conviction leaves a mark on her



Patrick Rossiter

record and she will probably have to wait an extra five years before filing for citizenship. The interview with the woman has also left a mark – on Rossiter.

“I don’t think I will ever forget that.”

Alumni Association Holds Bar Survival Talk

By **Nicea Bates**, *Alumni Association Board Member*

As the graduating students of San Joaquin College of Law begin the daunting task of preparing for the California Bar Exam, it is easy to get overwhelmed by the looming deadlines, stress, and financial burdens. To help put students at ease, the SJCL Alumni Association holds its annual Bar Survival Talk. On April 14, 2016, Scott Darling, Kristina Garabedian and I addressed the Legal Process class to offer some useful advice.

Each of us had very different experiences taking the Bar Exam, and were able to offer unique perspectives about topics like working during Bar Prep, preparing financially, setting expectations of family and friends, and what to expect during the week of the exam. We hope that by sharing what we learned we can make the process easier for others.

The Alumni Association also provided useful tools including handouts with

tips, deadlines, and a list of the items graduates are allowed bring to the exam. Each student left with a bag filled with treats and bar essentials, like highlighters, pens, and ear plugs.

We are excited to welcome a new class of students into the Alumni Association and wish all of the graduates luck on the upcoming exam!

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Fresno City College, Fresno State, and SJCL Join the Pathway to Law School Initiative

San Joaquin College of Law joins Fresno State and Fresno City College in an effort to streamline the path to Law School.

Established under the sponsorship of the State Bar of California's Council on Access and Fairness, the regional Pathway to Law School program will provide students with a clear transition from Fresno City College to Fresno State, and then to San Joaquin College of Law. Along the way students will earn an Associate Degree, a Bachelor's Degree and a Juris Doctor.

At the April 28th signing ceremony, Fresno State President Joseph Castro noted "72% of our 24,000 students are first generation college students," adding "Fresno State is pleased to join Fresno City College and San Joaquin College of Law in this regional partnership that will help prepare the next generation of talented and diverse leaders in the legal profession." He believes the initiative is consistent with Fresno State's new mission "To boldly educate and empower students for success."

Dean Jan Pearson is excited about the extra support incoming students will receive. "They will come to law school better-prepared with regard to their analytical and writing abilities and therefore have a much-heightened chance for success." Dean Pearson says much of the credit for shepherding the Initiative to fruition in the Valley goes to Melissa White (Law '96), who tirelessly fought to create a local pathway.

White, meanwhile, wants to extend credit to other members of the Regional Advisory Council, including Ruthe Catolico Ashley, Esq., Executive Director Emeritus; the Hon. Mark Cullers; Fresno County Public Defender Elizabeth Diaz; Dr. Xuanning Fu, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Fresno State; the Hon. Brad R. Hill, Presiding Justice, Fifth District Court of Appeal; the Hon. Anthony Ishii; Dr. M.E. ("Peg") Mericle, Dean of Instruction, Social Sciences Division, Fresno City College;



(L-R): Fresno City College *Interim President Cynthia Azari*, Fresno State *President Joseph Castro*, and *Dean Jan Pearson* sign the Memorandum of Understanding to launch the Central Valley Regional Partnership Pathway to Law School Initiative.

Professor Matthew Watson, Esq., Fresno City College; Fresno County School Superintendent Jim Yovino; and Fresno State Provost Lynnette Zelezny. White adds that she is especially appreciative of the work of Ruthe Catolico Ashley, "who actually started the program through the State Bar in 2014."

The Fresno State Press Release also mentions their work, along with giving other details:

"Working closely with the schools will be the Regional Advisory Council, a group of lawyers and judges who will provide mentoring, internships, field trips, curriculum and classroom assistance. Chaired by Melissa L. White, former Fresno (County) Bar Association president, this council is designed to support the success of the initiative from the legal professional perspective.

"When the partnership launches, the Central Valley will join 28 California community colleges and six law schools, along with their respective four-year higher education institutions, that are participating in the initiative.

"The State Bar's primary objective is the recruitment of a more diverse student population into the legal profession. California's racial and ethnic minorities make up 60 percent of the state's population, while only 20 percent of the state's lawyers are minorities. A new organization, California LAW (Leadership Access Workforce) will coordinate the participants, which include 16 high schools feeding into the participating colleges.

"To qualify, students must attend Fresno City College and complete all required courses, including pre-law classes. Scholars will then transfer to Fresno State to earn a pre-law bachelor's degree before attending San Joaquin College of Law to complete a law degree. Plans are underway to add a feeder high school law academy to complete the pipeline.

"California LAW scholars will be given additional support, access and information about the law school admission process, including guidance and tutoring prior to taking the Law School Admissions Test."

SJCL Celebrates February Barpassers!

SJCL congratulates all February Barpassers, Brett Barcellos, Harout Bouldoukian, Megan Brown, Maria Cordova, Randell Harper, Firas Jaber, Amanda Kendzora, Michael Landers, Erika Rascon, Michael Titus, Cheri Wortham, and Patricia Ziegler-Lopez

It's hard to be happier than the Happiest Place on Earth. But Megan Brown was. She had accompanied her husband as chaperones for Roosevelt High School's Grad night at Disneyland the evening her bar results were released. She says she tried to play it low-key, but her husband wasn't having it. He was so ecstatic that not only did roughly 200 Roosevelt High Grads take note, but so did Disneyland, awarding them free ice cream and Fastpass tickets as they celebrated in the Tiki Room.

Randell Harper, her husband, and daughter took off for Avila Beach for a day of celebrating her passing the bar, because when you pass the bar, everywhere is the happiest place on earth!

San Joaquin College of Law received word that the State Bar will not be releasing the names of bar passers to the public or even law schools, so there may be more than the dozen grads who told the school they had passed the February bar. Those who attended the traditional Barpassers Champagne Reception on May 16th filled the hallway with laughter and plans for the future.

Firas Jaber missed the opportunity to take the July bar due to family issues, but was victorious when he took it in February. He says SJCL "sets you up for success" in that the classes and tests demand many of the same skills needed to pass the bar. He also says some of that success comes from within, adding "Everything is achievable, if you dedicate yourself." He has been clerking for the Tulare County Public Defender's Office and hopes to be hired on as an attorney soon. He would join classmates Sarah McNabb and Jarrett Rogers, who passed the July bar and are already working there.



BACK ROW (L-R): **Michael Landers, Firas Jaber, and Brett Barcellos**
MIDDLE ROW (L-R): **Megan Brown, Cheri Wortham, Maria "Lupita" Cordova, and Michael Titus**
FRONT ROW (L-R): **Mandy Kendzora and Randell Harper**
ALSO PASSING BUT NOT PICTURED: **Harout Bouldoukian, Erika Rascon, and Patricia Ziegler-Lopez**

Some Barpassers already have a job in hand, having clerked for firms who made the "You pass, you're hired" offer.

Maria "Lupita" Cordova couldn't say enough about the support she received while in law school from Perez, Williams, Medina & Rodriguez LLP, where she has clerked for years. Less than 24 hours after receiving word she had passed, they met with her to finalize her new position and salary.

Meanwhile, Harout Bouldoukian is hoping to turn his clerkship at Wadhvani and Shanfeld (a bankruptcy firm in L.A.) into an Associate position, Mandy Kendzora plans to work as a contract

attorney at Wagner, Jones, Kopfman & Artenian, and Brett Barcellos will be talking with the Dias Law Firm about turning his clerkship into work as an attorney.

Others, like Michael Titus, wanted to wait until they were sure they passed before taking on a position. Titus had already scheduled his first interview to take place just five days after getting word he had passed.

For most, the relief is almost overwhelming. At least two admitted they had logged in to the State Bar every day since passing, triple checking that they were indeed listed as a "Barpasser."

Women Leaders of SJCL's 43rd Class

The Class of 2016 was unique in many ways. It is the most ethnically diverse class to graduate from SJCL and was comprised of 47% female students.

By **Virginia Madrid-Salazar**, Volume 25 SJALR Editor-in-Chief

Women make up almost half of the Class of 2016, so SBA President Shannon Wallen Hernandez was not surprised the student organizations were led by “strong, motivated, intelligent and passionate women” and found it encouraging that peers voted for these leaders based on character and ability, rather than gender.

Delta Theta Phi (DTP), Law Students United In Tolerance (LawSUIT), *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*, and the Student Bar Association were all led by a female student.

DTP President Brittany Hines says she enjoyed serving as a leader on campus.

“This position has enhanced my leadership skills because it taught me to be open-minded and think outside the box,” Hines said. “Delta Theta Phi members’ ages range from 23 to over 50. As a leader I had to be versatile to be able to develop a relationship with all members.”

But sometimes leading by example was the impetus for taking on a leadership role.

As LawSUIT President Leila Alamri-Kassim said, “Since I do not have many role models in my community, I have grown accustomed to being a trailblazer. While earning my degree in Women’s Studies, I was aware that as a lawyer I would be entering a male-dominated profession.” Once she passes the bar, Alamri-Kassim will be the first Yemeni-American lawyer in the Central Valley.

In my case, serving as leader of the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* was not out of my comfort zone. Coming from the women-dominated field of



SJCL's FEMALE STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM (L-R): **Leila Alamri-Kassim, Shannon Wallen Hernandez, Brittany Hines, and Virginia Madrid-Salazar**

Public Relations, taking on a leadership role was nothing out of the ordinary. However, it was an opportunity to contribute to the legal community, encourage broader legal thinking, lead with compassion and work with other women who are establishing themselves in the legal community.

Serving on the board with Assistant-Editor-In-Chief Jennifer Vanzant and Production Editor Mao Lee was inspiring. Sometimes the motivation to take on these roles comes from past leaders and family members.

Jennifer Vanzant credits her mother, Michelle Oleksa (Law '99 and past Law Review Board Member) with inspiring her.

“I’m really glad I took my mom’s advice and became involved because being a leader was good for me, especially here at SJCL,” said Vanzant. “I really enjoyed being part of the community and really liked when people asked for my advice. It was an amazing opportunity.”

Serving as a leader on Law Review gave Lee an opportunity to contribute by

showcasing her culture while allowing her to be empowered.

“In my culture women aren’t expected to lead. For me, leading comes naturally,” said Mao. “It’s because I want to be able to do everything and anything without having to rely on a man.”

She showcased that empowering spirit to highlight the Southeast Asian culture in her Law Review comment. “There aren’t very many Law Review comments that focus on the Southeast Asian community,” she said. “This was my chance to make sure we had a place in Law Review.”

Along with Dean Jan Pearson, who has served in her role for over 30 years, we find there are many leaders on campus that inspire us. This year was our turn to contribute to the success of our fellow classmates.

“It forced me to think about the needs of my fellow classmates ahead of my own, and made me become more passionate about helping improve the experiences and opportunities available to my peers,” said Wallen Hernandez.

Enchanted Evening

The SJCL Student Body Association would like to thank all those who attended this year's Scholarship Banquet, an "Enchanted Evening," on April 8. Everyone had a great time celebrating the accomplishments of our hardworking students. Big Thank You to all the donors that sponsored the scholarships for the students.

Scholarship Recipients

Abota Memorial Scholarship

Craig Waters

Alumni Association Carolyn T. Mirviss Scholarship

Ingrid Caero

Alumni Association Spirit of SJCL Scholarship

Alex Newsum

Baradat & Paboojian Trial Advocacy Scholarship

Janay Kinder

Bertha & John Garabedian Military Service Scholarship

Michael Kerr and Carmen Kalashian

Cartier First Year Improvement Scholarship

Jorge Gallegos and Nicholas Urgesi

CCBA Scholarship

D'Artagnan Montrose, Jason Crockford, Jaskaran Gill, and Whitney Northington

Clovis Soroptimist Woman's Advocate Award

Shannon Wallen Hernandez

Darryl B. Freedman Bar Study Support Scholarship

Amanda Moran

Delta Theta Phi Scholarships

Jodie Howard and Jason Oleson

EECU Scholarship

Kuljit Singh

Elizabeth O'Neill Memorial Scholarship

Christina Pina

Ernest Kinney Trial Lawyer Scholarship

Jennifer Nguyen-Bui

Hammerschmidt/Broughton Criminal Practice Scholarship

Diego Andrade

Florentino Jose Memorial Scholarship

Sandra Garcia

Founder's Scholarship

Virginia Madrid-Salazar

Ibarra/Casillas LawSUIT Scholarship

Leila Alamri-Kassim

Janice Pearson Scholarship

James Orr

Judy Wiseman Memorial Scholarship

Veronica Pena

Ken Coyle Memorial Scholarship

Richard Placido

Kharazi Bar Study Support Scholarship

Jacquelin Curry

LawSuit Scholarship

Whitney Hendricks

Legal Edge Consumer Scholarship

Fabian Perez

Leon S. Peters Foundation Leadership Awards

Brandon Hamparzoomian, Leila Alamri-Kassim, Jasdeep Lasher, Jennifer Vanzant, and Kayla Waters

Proctor Scholar of the Year

Ingrid Caero

Robert F & Kathryn S. Price Scholarship

Jennifer Vanzant

SJCL Student Bar Association Law Scholarship for Merit – Most Improved

James Castleman

SJCL Student Bar Association Law Scholarship for Need

Tiffany Pack

SJCL Student Bar Association Law Scholarship for Participation

John (Chris) Matthes

Special Honor Awards

Adjunct Professor of the Year

Hon. Jonathan Conklin

Full time Professor of the Year

Justin Atkinson

Fourth Year Student of the Year

Jennifer Vanzant

Third Year Student of the Year

Andrea Chapman

Second Year Student of the Year

Daniel Sharma and BreAnne Ruelas

First Year Student of the Year

Mario Gonzales Silvestre



Michael Kuchar and Shannon Wallen Hernandez



Craig Waters and Kayla Waters



Sundip Singh, Skye Emery, and Veronica Pena



Academic Dean Justin Atkinson with wife Ana



MEMBERS OF THE *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* (L-R): Allison Ryan, BreAnne Ruelas, Virginia Madrid-Salazar, Jaskaran Gill, Jennifer Vanzant, Mao Lee, Ryan Petty, and Kuljit Singh



NALC Legal Director Greg Olson with NALC Pro Bono Volunteers of the Year Antoinette Gonzalez and Camille Cook



Professor Michael Kucera with wife Karen



Professor of Law Dan Rogers and Dean Jan Pearson

Graduation (From Page 1)

Chris LeFever reflected this throughout his Graduation Address, pointing to the contributions beyond just donors. “Who is San Joaquin College of Law?” LeFever said it’s full-time faculty who could be working elsewhere and making more, and it’s adjuncts practicing their craft all day and then working twice as hard to teach students at night. Pointing to SJCL’s entire circle of supporters, LeFever says it is “humbling and overwhelming.”

Two of the graduates have SJCL supporters close at hand. Jennifer Oleksa Vanzant is the daughter of SJCL Alumna Michelle Oleksa (Law ’99) and niece of Suzanne Golden (Law ’01), while Mario Gonzalez is the son of Leah Cole (Law ’92), the brother of Rachel Gonzalez Mahoney (Law ’11), and brother-in-law to Michael Mahoney (Law ’11).

One of the Law School’s legendary supporters was also honored at Commencement, with Dean Jan Pearson announcing the creation of the Loomis Legacy Medal of Distinction, in honor of Founder John Loomis’ work not only in creating SJCL, but also in guiding it with his decades of service on the Board of Trustees. The criteria are civility, positive attitude, highest ethics, commitment to the highest level of practice, community service (including to SJCL) and academic performance. Nichola Krebsbach was delighted to be the first recipient of the Medal.

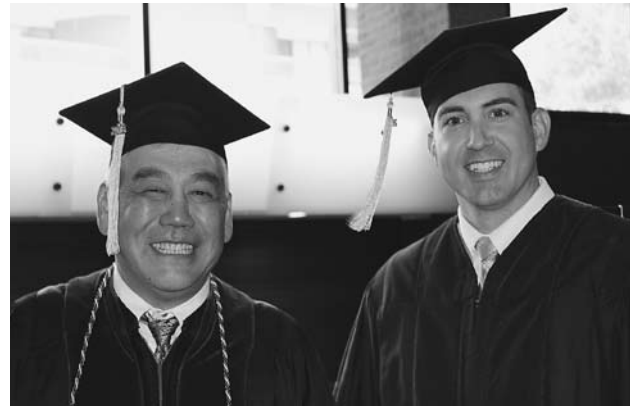
Chris Schneider delivered the Commencement Address. He was impressed by the diversity of the SJCL Class of 2016 and the number of those who are the first in their families to receive any degree beyond high school. As the former Executive Director of Central California Legal Services for 23 years, Schneider pulled stories from his vast history of public service, ranging from work with sheep herders to a Hmong woman with tuberculosis. He called the grads to service, saying “You have great power, and with it comes great responsibility.”



Congratulations to the Class of 2016 – BACK ROW (L-R): **Elliot John Pease, William Layton Chaddock, Erik Donald Hawkins, Chris Anthony LeFever, Ryan Blake Kalashian, Jordan Laurence Brown, Ryan Lee Petty, Diego Ernesto Andrade, Jeffrey Duane Boggs, II, John Michael Miser, Sukhveer Prince Singh Girn, John Christopher Matthes, Brandon Michael Hinton, Alexander Neil Newsum, Sean Arthur Fredin, Matthew L. Green, Daniel Adam Martin, Mario Alexander Gonzalez, Shannon Wallen Hernandez, and Jeremy Michael Dobbins**



Leila Alamri-Kassim and Joe Luis Alindajao



Michael Thomas Haw and Erik Donald Hawkins



Sandra Garcia, Joy C. Rodriguez, Skye Giacomini Emery, Michelle Marie Errecart, and Sundip Amelia Singh



MIDDLE ROW (L-R): **Jacquelin Joy Curry, Leila Alamri-Kassim, Nichola Garver Krebsbach, Carmen Shaeffer Kalashian, Jeffrey Thomas Robinson, Jennifer Oleksa Vanzant, Whitney Marie Northington Barnick, Brittany Elizabeth Hines, Michael Thomas Haw, Denise Monique Ruiz, Craig Charles Owen Waters, Skye Giacomini Emery, and Veronica Pena**

FRONT ROW (L-R): **Joe Luis Alindajao, Christopher Garcez, Mao Lee, Stephanie Takeno Kokka, Virginia Reyna Madrid-Salazar, Michelle Marie Errecart, Monique Castruita Galvan, Sandra Garcia, Amanda Kathleen Moran Hines, Sandra Diane Gutierrez, Marcela Garcia, Sundip Amelia Singh, and Joy C. Rodriguez**



Whitney Marie Northington Barnick and John Christopher Matthes



Sukhveer Prince Singh Girn and Mario Alexander Gonzalez



Virginia Reyna Madrid-Salazar, Michelle Marie Errecart, and Monique Castruita Galvan



Matthew L. Green and Sandra Diane Gutierrez



Amanda Kathleen Moran Hines and Brittany Elizabeth Hines



Diego Ernesto Andrade and Jeffrey Duane Boggs, II

Dear Faux Amici

Professor Jeffrey G. Purvis participated in the Unitarian Universalist Church's Fresno Town Hall series on May 15, 2016 with a speech titled "The Second Amendment: Its History & Current Interpretation."

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

The speech touched on why our Founding Fathers included the Second Amendment in our Bill of Rights and what history shows they meant with "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." It also addressed questions such as how have our courts interpreted this Amendment, including the U.S. Supreme Court's most recent decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. And with the *Heller's* 5-4 decision, is there any limit on the type of guns covered by the Second Amendment?

The speech, along with a question and answer session, was replayed on June 2 on KFCF, 88.1 FM as part of Professor Purvis' "Valley Views on the Law," San Joaquin College of Law's monthly legal information radio show. Just as during the regular show, Professor Purvis opened his speech with the "Dear Professors" segment, in which he answers the pressing and topical legal questions generated by his own fervid imagination:

Dear Professors

I couldn't believe my Instagram when I saw that you would be making a presentation at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno, Professor Purvis. You have repeatedly stated that you are an "equal opportunity religion insulter," that you worship Lucifer, and that you regard organized religion as harmful and irrational. I wouldn't be surprised if your hair burst into flames when you walked into the church. What kind of a venue is that for a militant agnostic like yourself?

—Morris Dees, Shorter, Alabama

Mr. Dees, I have to acknowledge that I experienced some trepidation when con-



(L-R) U. U. Board member **Eric Peterson** (Law '07), Reverend **Tim Kutzmark**, Professor **Jeffrey G. Purvis**, and **Jesse Molina** (Law '13).



Howard K. Watkins and Professor **Jeffrey G. Purvis** address the audience

templating making one of my profane and sarcastic presentations in a church. So like any modern Baby Boomer I went to the interwebs, specifically Wikipedia, to check out the Unitarian Universalist church. Among other things, I learned that the church has adopted these Seven Principles:

- The Inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

As you can see, Mr. Dees, the Unitarian Universalists are a bunch of Commies, just like those of us at KFCF. So I figured I would fit right in.

FCBA Law Day Luncheon

Congratulations to several members of the SJCL family who nearly swept the awards at the Fresno County Bar Association's Annual Law Day Luncheon.



With an overwhelming majority of award recipients coming from one or more facets of SJCL, the program for the FCBA's Luncheon read like an SJCL who's who. The honorees included **Robert C. Abrams** (Law '08), who was selected as Pro Bono Attorney of the Year. Bob says he always dreamed of attending law school, but waited until after he'd established careers in both banking and real estate first. Bob is an attorney with Pascuzzi, Pascuzzi & Stoker, where his practice areas include real estate and civil litigation. As a long-time volunteer for the Voluntary Legal Services Program, Bob is considered the "go-to" pro bono resource for real estate, elder abuse, and fraud in real estate issues. His commitment to the legal needs of low-income clients takes up a lot of his time on nights and weekends, but he says the work is important and meaningful to him, and he's happy to do it.



The Pro Bono Firm of the Year was awarded to Palmer & Kucera, LLP, the recently forged partnership between **Charles Palmer** (Law '13) and SJCL Adjunct Professor **Andy Kucera** (Law '13). Barely reaching their firm's first year anniversary, Andy and Charles say it is only natural to give of their time for pro bono work, especially when they can help veterans. The FCBA named Palmer Kucera LLP "an excellent example that every law firm – regardless of size or age – has the ability to make a meaningful contribution to the community through the delivery of pro bono legal services."



The FCBA's Liberty Bell Award went to SJCL Adjunct Professor **Mark Masters**. In his role as Reference Librarian of the Central Branch Library of Fresno County, Mark works with the Law Library and CCLS conducting guardianship clinics for pro per litigants. He also assists the public on a daily basis to increase their knowledge of, and access to, the law and our legal system.



A fifth award recipient from SJCL was 3L student **Christina Chavez Pina**, who was awarded the Fresno County Lawyers Memorial Fund Scholarship for Spring 2016. Christina is also the winner of the Witkin Award for Academic Excellence for Civil Procedure, Legal Research and Writing, Public Labor Law & Business Organizations. She is the mother of two and works full time as a paralegal as she completes law school. Another SJCL Superstar!

The Alumni of Dowling Aaron

The SJCL alumni of Dowling Aaron belong to graduating classes that span 28 years, yet they share a legacy of solid legal education and excellence in their fields.



ALUMNI OF DOWLING AARON (L-R): **Marcus DiBuduo** (Law '08), **David Schneider** (Law '00), **Jeffrey Davis** (Law '93), **Ron Henderson** (Law '80), and **Greg Miskulin** (Law '05)

Ron Henderson, (Law '80) says he relates easily to the younger alumni at the firm because he is able to share some of the history of SJCL's early years. He says the quality of SJCL grads today continues to impress.

During a visit to the offices of Dowling Aaron recently, we caught up with Ron, Jeffrey Davis, David Schneider, Greg Miskulin, and Marcus DiBuduo, and asked them to reflect on their careers.

When Ron decided to enroll at SJCL during the law school's early years, he was working at the IRS with several other law students, including Duff (Eric) Green (Law '76) and Steve Denning (Law '78). With a major in math and a minor in accounting, Ron says his propensity for numbers and the logic of rules and analysis was a good fit. As a tax lawyer his adversaries are mainly large agencies. Ron says he likes being able to help people who don't understand the system. Although law was not originally in his sights, Ron says he is glad he chose law school over being an IRS revenue agent. "I enjoy this side of it, helping people, being a resolver," he said.

Greg Miskulin (Law '05) is the Firm Administrator at Dowling Aaron, a firm that employs over 90 people in four cities. Greg manages all operations of the firm: Finance, HR, and the complaint box. He spent 10 years as the owner

of a Domino's Pizza franchise before enrolling in the paralegal program (no longer offered) at SJCL. His start was with the firm of Forrest (Law '77) and McLaughlin, after which he came to Dowling Aaron where he has remained for 16 years.

Jeffrey Davis (Law '93) worked in real estate and security tech before deciding to enroll in law school. A friend, Mike Bryant (Law '91) was attending SJCL and had much to do with influencing Jeffrey's decision. After several years with a tech security business, Jeff felt like he wanted to do more. "SJCL was local and provided me with the opportunity at the age of 35 to make a career change." Jeff completed the three year program and clerked at McCormick Barstow.

Jeff's caseload includes wrongful termination defending employers. He says most lawsuits brought against employers are not meritorious, and he likes the fact that he makes the lives of business people easier.

David Schneider (Law '00) is a Fresno guy all around. He went to school at every age here, and eventually wound up at SJCL. "Word on the street was that SJCL had super high pass rates," he says. "I saw no reason to move away to attend law school." David says he had a great experience while attending SJCL. After marrying during his last semester of law school, David was invited to join

the family practice law firm of a relative. David practiced family law for six weeks and then realized it was not for him. He came to Dowling Aaron in 2001 and has never left. "SJCL helped me to prepare for the life experiences the legal profession requires," David says.

Marcus Dibuduo (Law '08) has his undergrad degree in electrical engineering and spent several years in that field before he enrolled at SJCL. Marcus's research on cellular phone technology led to patent applications for some of his inventions, and he found the work of the patent attorneys intriguing. Marcus says it was a "no brainer" to attend SJCL because he wanted to stay local and he knew the school was respected among the legal community. "I met a lot of people in law school that I'm still in touch with," he said. Since joining Dowling Aaron in 2014, Marcus has focused on patent, trademark, copyright, and internet law.

Besides the usual hard work and devotion to detail that is required in any law practice, the SJCL alumni of Dowling Aaron said they do try to find ways to work in a little fun, on occasion. In fact, one of the grads, whose identity we will protect - Jeffrey Davis - mentioned that certain members of the group - Dave Schneider (aka The King of Anything) - is unable to resist a challenge, and that there is video of a certain Milk Gallon Challenge!

The Law Office of A.L. Hinton

The Law Office of A.L. Hinton opened its doors in February to become the Valley's newest all-SJCL law firm.

Never mind that the firm is a sole proprietorship. The sole proprietor, Alicia Hinton (Law '09), says her career incarnations – including five separate degrees in higher education – have led to this perfect resting spot.

Located in the TW Patterson Building on the fourth floor, Hinton's new consumer law practice was recently celebrated by colleagues, family, and friends at an open house that featured wine, a chocolate fountain, and door prizes.

Originally from Georgia, Hinton says she has always been interested in serving humanity, specifically in restorative justice. Upon meeting Alicia, it's easy to see it's in her nature.

Even so, the practice of law was not on the horizon once she obtained her undergraduate degree in Computer Science. She says she sort of fell into a 23-year career, the last seven with Johnson & Johnson in quality and compliance for medical devices like diabetes monitoring systems. Alicia says conducting research and study in compliance was a good fit that provided an outlet for her desire to serve, but her contact with the people who used the medical devices was limited. The idea to practice law came when she realized she wanted to work more on the people end of things.

A new phase began with her return to school for a B.A. in Comparative Religious Studies, where she spent time looking at spiritual healing and justice. She then found a program that combined study for a M.A. in Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution from Fresno Pacific University, and a Juris Doctorate



from SJCL, concurrently. To say that it was challenging is an understatement, but Alicia says it was highly rewarding as well. During the program(s) she spent hundreds of hours working with the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP), and met with victims, juvenile offenders, and their families to help facilitate restitution and restoration of community peace.

After law school, Alicia started a unique online retail business that created opportunities for survivors to share their courage to heal. Her desire to serve through the legal system was reignited upon passing the bar exam.

Alicia's more recent work with Senior Attorney and mentor William Krieg, a premier Lemon Law lawyer in the Valley, was just what she was looking for. In consumer law she could directly help people who were being taken advantage

of, and she nurtured a desire to fight for the underdog.

Alicia says her practice will focus on automobile fraud, lemon law, unfair business practices, and door to door sales scams, as well as unfair debt collection and credit reporting. "I come to work every day and learn something new," she says.

She is also partnering with Central California Legal Services to help teach people how to avoid becoming victims of consumer fraud. "Our diverse community needs advocates to help them navigate," she says. Within this complex field of the law, federal, state, and vehicle codes all intertwine in a large web, "which keeps it always interesting. I like knowing that I can leave victims with alternate paths," she said. For Alicia, "It's always about solving the problem and helping to create a better community."

Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament

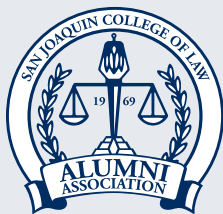
The team from the Law Offices of Purvis & Elder scored a first place win in the SJCL Alumni Association's 2016 Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament.

With a score of 55 in a four-person best-ball scramble, team members Kacie Elder, Alex Takeda, Joe Carrier and Kenny Abell bested Baker Manock & Jensen's 2nd place win by three strokes. Rounding out the team in 2nd place was Deborah Coe Hood, Greg Hood, Kurt Zumwalt, and Mike Shirinian. A beautiful spring morning greeted the golfers as they enjoyed the beauty of Dragonfly Golf Club in Madera.

The SJCL Alumni Association wishes to thank all the sponsors, participants, and volunteers whose continued support of their efforts is invaluable to San Joaquin College of Law.



FIRST PLACE TEAM FROM PURVIS & ELDER (L-R): **Kacie Elder, Alex Takeda, Joe Carrier,** and **Kenny Abell**



The SJCL Alumni Association
is your network.
Join today.

www.sjcl.edu/alumni



SECOND PLACE TEAM FROM BAKER MANOCK & JENSEN (L-R): **Kurt Zumwalt, Greg Hood,** SJCL Board Member **Deborah Coe Hood** (Law '91), and **Mike Shirinian**

Law School Beefs Up CUSD Libraries

Another year, another 592 books donated to the Elizabeth O'Neill Book Drive!

San Joaquin College of Law would like to thank everyone who contributed books, which will be split between Sierra Vista and Jefferson Elementary School Libraries. The librarians for the two Title I Schools say their budget allows them to buy a little more than 300 books per year, so the donation nearly doubles that amount for each school. Jefferson Elementary School Librarian Gwen Kubo says the books are needed for more than just the library; they also support after-school and outreach programs. Sierra Vista School Librarian Shannon Raiskup says if she ends up with any duplicates, she plans to give some to a new kindergarten teacher who has no books in her classroom.

This is the eighth year for the O'Neill Drive, which has donated more than 2,700 books to Clovis Unified Title I School Libraries so far.



Librarians **Shannon Raiskup** and **Gwen Kubo** with Sierra Vista students. About a fifth of the books are laid out on the table, with more than a dozen boxes still waiting to be opened in the background.

You've Got This – Day

The SJCL Alumni Association provided muffins and cupcakes galore for the before-spring-finals Student Appreciation Day.



Student **Gabriel Monreal**



(L-R): Professor **Rose Safarian** with students **BreAnnes Ruelas**, **Brittany Bonilla**, and **James Orr**

SJCL ON THE MOVE

Harout Bouldoukian (Law '14) is now an Associate Attorney for Wadhvani and Shanfeld, APLC.

Maria "Lupita" Cordova (Law '15) is now an Associate Attorney at Perez, Williams, Medina & Rodriguez LLP

Steven Dias (Law '07) is now a Shareholder in the firm Wild, Carter & Tipton. His practice will continue to emphasize Personal Injury, Business Litigation, and Real Estate Law.

Sherrie Flynn (Law '05) has been elevated to the position of Partner at Coleman & Horowitz, LLP. She is a registered Patent Attorney, representing clients in intellectual property matters including patent prosecution and trademark, copyright, and trade dress registration and litigation involving intellectual property, trade secrets, and complex business and construction litigation.

Robin Hall (Law '07) is now an Associate Attorney at Wild, Carter & Tipton. Her practice will continue to emphasize Family Law, Civil Litigation, and Real Estate Law.

Maribel Hernandez (Law '04) has joined the law firm of Klein DeNatale Goldner as senior counsel at the firm's Fresno office. She joins the firm with seven years of experience practicing employment law in Fresno County

and more than 10 years of experience working in management in the HR industry.

Mandy Kendzora (Law '15) is now a Contract Attorney at Wagner, Jones, Kopfman & Artenian.

Jeff Levinson (Law '91), who has served on the Board of Trustees for the West Hills Community College District for 30 years, was recently honored for his service by the California Community College Trustees.

Ann Litten (Law '13) is now an Associate Attorney at Patricio, Hermanson & Guzman, A P.C.

Kerri Lopez (Law '98) has been promoted to Assistant District Attorney in Tulare County. She began her career at the DA's office as a certified law clerk in 1996 and a prosecutor in 1999 after graduating from California State University, Fresno in 1994 and San Joaquin College of Law in 1998. Prior to her promotion, Lopez served as a supervising attorney for the Financial Crimes Division, Felony Trial Division, Visalia Prosecution Team, and most recently the Special Crimes Division.

Ryan McAbee (Law '14) is now Vice President of Compliance at Fresno First Bank.

Naser Nekumanesh (Law '10) is now an Associate Attorney at Goyette & Associates, Inc.

Erika Rascon (Law '15) is now an Associate Attorney with Horswill, Mederos, Sores & Ormonde.

Jarrett Rogers (Law '15) is now a Tulare County Public Defender.

Adam Stirrup (Law '08) is now a Partner of the law firm of Baradat & Paboojian, Inc. He has also received an AV Preeminent rating from the Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings.

Michael Titus (Law '15) is now an Associate Attorney with Weiss Martin Salinas & Hearst.

Chester E. Walls (Law '12) is now a Senior Associate at the Fresno office of Eriksen Arbuthnot. Mr. Walls is a member of the Construction, Personal Injury, Professional Liability, and Workers' Compensation practice groups. He is also a duly licensed professional engineer and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Christopher Watters (Law '07) is now a partner at the Law Offices of Miles, Sears & Eanni. The Firm's practice is limited to Plaintiff Civil Litigation, Personal Injury, Product Liability, and Wrongful Death.

Are you *On The Move*? Send your updates to mcartier@sjcl.edu.

Thank you for your support!

Financial gifts to SJCL provide vital support to educational opportunities for our students. Enhancements to the law library, support of faculty and staff, support of the New American Legal Clinic (NALC), and upgrades to technology are only a few of the areas that are strengthened by your support. It's easy to make your gift online at www.sjcl.edu/giving.



Sundip Singh
Class of 2016

"I would like to thank everyone at NALC, Madera Alternate Defense and the Fresno County District Attorney's Office for mentoring me, giving me great opportunities to learn, and for giving me the invaluable opportunities to see the difference lawyers can make in their communities."



Jeffrey Robinson
Class of 2016

"I would like to thank my fellow students for all their encouragement and commiseration, the professors and staff at San College of Law for support and guidance, and most of all my wife Becky without whom I would not have survived."



Joy Rodriguez
Class of 2016

"I am grateful for the constant support that both the staff at SJCL and my fellow students provide, I could not have made it without you."

March 1 - May 31, 2016

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