



Inter Alia

100th Edition

SAN JOAQUIN COLLEGE OF LAW • Volume 28, Issue 2

Congratulations to the Class of 2017



Commencement Speaker **Lisa A. Smittcamp** (Law '95), Fresno County District Attorney

Perhaps the best way to tell the story of the May 27th Commencement celebration at the Saroyan Theatre is to talk both about the facts and the folks. First the facts:

- This year's Commencement celebrates SJCL's 44th graduating class.
- Thirty-five students received a Juris Doctor.
- Nineteen members of the class hold degrees from Fresno State, ranging from Bachelors to Masters and MBA.
- This year's class includes those with degrees from Fresno State, U.C.L.A., U.C. Berkeley, U.C. Davis, Fresno Pacific, Brigham Young, C.S.U. Stanislaus, San Diego State University, C.S.U. Los Angeles, and others.
- Class members hold degrees ranging from Criminology and Political Science

to Psychology, Child Development, Business, Sociology, Environmental Toxicology, Accounting, Philosophy, Neuroscience, Theology, English, and more.

- Several of the graduates have family connections to SJCL, including Kayla Waters, whose husband Craig graduated last year and Kyle Martin, whose brother, Dan, is also a 2016 alumnus.

But how to describe the folks? Class Valedictorian Jaskaran Gill seemed to touch on the issue. He reflected on how he was struck by the many differences among his class members when he first started, but later began to see common themes. There was the desire to push their intellect, but also, to make their families proud. It's an unspoken sense that no one gets through law school alone, and the statements from

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FRONT ROW (L-R) **Ingrid Veronica Caero, Brittaneey Lauren Contreras, Heidi Ree Falany, Tamera D. Casey, Jocelyne Edilia Hering, Jason Louis Trupkin, Devin Carin Swann, Allison Marie Ryan, Kuljit Singh, Christina Chavez Piña, Ivan G. Martinez;** MIDDLE ROW (L-R) **Michael John Kuchar, Andrea Marie Chapman, Jason Phillip Jackson, Janay Deborah Louise Kinder, D'Artagnan Romance Montrose II, Shanna Nicole Hesketh, Melanie Colette Contreras, Kayla Lauren Waters, Elizabeth Danielle Mehling, Manuel Parra, Jr., Richard Joseph Placido, Matthew Martin Lear;** BACK ROW (L-R) **Michael Allen Kerr, Niklas Kent Hugosson, Brandon Alan Hamparzoomian, Jaskaran Singh Gill, David Aaron Devenenzi, Jeffrey Curtis Castleton, Todd L. Rudder, Thomas John Niven, James Robert Campbell Orr, Kyle Robert Martin, Patrick Ethan Rossiter;** NOT PICTURED: **Jasdeep Singh Lasher**

Traynor Moot Court Team

Congratulations to the San Joaquin College of Law Traynor Team which brought home a Kalman S. Zempleny II Award after two days of competition against about a dozen other law schools at McGeorge.

The Kalman S. Zempleny II Award is given to the top 8 oral competitors. Professor Conklin had special praise for the Team: “Like other SJCL teams in the past, this team was exceptionally well prepared – and it showed. There was no question they could not handle. Their responses were direct and effective.

Of particular note was their professionalism. They went out of their way to greet each opposing team as they entered the room and wish them well. They thanked each judge after each round.

Most impressive, however, was their camaraderie. The team members were supportive and uplifting from start to finish. Their knowledge, preparation and litigation skills will serve them well. Their professionalism and mutual respect are traits that are all too rare – and traits that will lead to continued success in their legal careers.”



SJCL TRAYNOR TEAM (L-R) **Kayla Waters, Jodie Howard, and Whitney Hendricks**

Cyber Crimes Moot Court Team



Cyber Crimes Moot Court Team **Brandon Hamparzoomian and BreAnne Ruelas** flanked by their coaches. **Justin Vecchiarelli** (Law '14) and **Sally Vecchiarelli** (Law '15)

SJCL students BreAnne Ruelas and Brandon Hamparzoomian took the initiative to find a competition that they could compete in on behalf of San Joaquin College of Law. They found the UCLA School of Law Cyber Crimes Moot Court Competition, a national competition opened to all law schools, exploring and probing cutting edge problems in the field of cyber law. They found coaches in two SJCL alumni: Sally Vecchiarelli (Law '15) and Justin Vecchiarelli (Law '14). They competed April 22, 2017 at the UCLA Law School against schools from across the United States, including one round against UC Davis.

While the team didn't place in the competition, they represented the school with dignity and were fierce advocates of their positions. Both coaches agreed they would love to go again next year!

Inter Alia

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Get Social with SJCL



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Vision: *To be the premier provider of legal education, scholarship, and service in the San Joaquin Valley.*
Mission: *To educate and develop individuals to become highly skilled attorneys and problem solvers who will benefit their communities through public and private service. In seeking this vision and attaining this mission, SJCL shall embody the values of civility, excellence, integrity, intellectual inquiry, and service.*

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SJCL Celebrates this 100TH Issue of the *Inter Alia*

As this is the 100th issue of the *Inter Alia*, we took a moment to look back at some of the highlights from the past volumes. The following are a few of our favorites. All of the volumes of the *Inter Alia* are available online at sjcl.edu/interalia.



DECEMBER 1990, VOL. 1, NO. 1

“SJCL To Launch Agricultural Law Review in ‘91”

Dave Weiland (Law '92) and Marlene Hubbell (Law '92) working on article for inaugural issue of the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*.



APRIL 1992, VOL. 3 NO. 1

“Dean Pearson Receives Pauline Davis Hanson Award”

Dean Jan Pearson with the Hon. Annette LaRue.



OCTOBER 1992, VOL. 3 NO. 3

“SJCL Adds Two Full-Time Law Professors to Faculty”

Professors Lawrence Artenian and Richard Cartier.



APRIL 1993, VOL. 4 NO. 2

“SJCL Faculty – 1993”

FRONT ROW (L-R) Richard Cartier, Katy Rau, Kent Hamlin, Sally Perring, Dave Camenson, Jan Pearson, Russell Ryan, and Christine Goodrich; BACK ROW (L-R) Mike Mallery, Douglas Vogl, Robert Swanton, Curtis Wong, Peter Lefkowitz, James Peloian, Greg Durbin, Hon. Vincent J, McGraw, Robert Hurlbett, Anidelle Flint, Phillip Hollingsworth, Ellen Jahn, Ed Oeser, Paul Hokokian, Luke Temple, Daniel Bensing, Ronald Henderson, Denise Kerner; Marc Ament, and Bill Woolman



JUNE 1996, VOL. 7 NO. 3

“Let the Renovation Begin!”

Ground breaking for the renovation of our current facility.



APRIL 1997, VOL. 8 NO. 1

“SJCL Open House a Success”

(L-R) **James K. Herbert, Elizabeth O’Neill, Ross Borba,** and Dean **Jan Pearson** tour the newly renovated facilities.



OCTOBER 1997, VOL. 8 NO. 2

SJCL Time Capsule

Clovis Mayor Pro-Term **Harry Armstrong** and Dean **Jan Pearson** bury a time capsule to be opened in 2049 (The year SJCL’s lease with the City of Clovis expires).



FALL 2000, VOL. 11 NO. 3

“30th Anniversary All Class Reunion”

SJCL has it’s first all class reunion in the halls of our facility.



SPRING 2001, VOL. 12 NO. 1

“Alumnus Richard Lee joins the bankruptcy bench”

Hon. Richard Lee (Law ’85) became the first SJCL graduate to be appointed to the federal bench as a United States Bankruptcy Judge.



WINTER 2004, VOL. 16 NO. 1

“Chinese Delegation Visits SJCL”

A Chinese delegation of Judges, and senior staff visited SJCL on February 27, 2004 as part of a two week tour in an effort to gain an understanding of U.S. Intellectual Property rights.

Cynthia Hopper Appointed Commissioner



CINDY HOPPER IS SWORN IN AS A COMMISSIONER. BACK ROW (L-R) Commissioner **Heather Mardel Jones**, **Hon. Gary Hoff**, **Hon. Jonathan Conklin**, **Hon. Mark Snauffer**, **Hon. Arlan Harrell**, Commissioner **Sam Dalesandro**, **Hon. Michael Idiart**, and Commissioner **Gary Green**; FRONT ROW (L-R) Commissioner **Rhonda Duncan** (Law '82), **Hon. Rosemary McGuire** (Law '94), **Hon. Alan Simpson** (Law '83), **Hon. Lisa Gamoian** (PJ), **Hon. Kimberly Gaab**, Commissioner **Cindy Hopper** (Law '97), **Hon. D. Tyler Tharpe**, **Hon. Houry Sanderson** (Law '87), **Hon. Kimberly Nystrom-Geist** (Law '92), Commissioner **Leanne Le Mon**.

Cindy J. Hopper (Law '97) began her college career at Fresno City College. She had contemplated becoming an accountant, but was very interested in the law; her daytime hero was Perry Mason (in reruns). She also was interested in the criminal justice system and aspired to be like her nighttime hero, Quincy, M.E. However, after asking one of her professors which field paid women the same as men, he responded "the law" and her mind was made up. Perry Mason it would be.

When she asked her Dad what he thought of her becoming an attorney and going to law school, she recalls him saying "Maybe you could just be a paralegal—that's a lot of work." and then replying to him "Now I'm REALLY going to law school."

Cindy went on to get a Bachelor's Degree from Fresno State, her J.D. from SJCL, immediately opening her own law practice, and taking any case that came in the door. Among the cases Cindy was involved with at the beginning of her career, was a rape trial involving 14 Hmong defendants. It was the largest gang trial in the history of Fresno County. She represented one of the defendants through a grueling eight month trial with national coverage. She then began practicing exclusively in family law.

That focus on Family Law led to her running a very successful and busy family law practice, becoming a Certified Family Law Specialist with the State Bar of California, serving as a Pro-Tem Judge in Family Law and chairing the Family Law Section of the Fresno County Bar Association.

She loves Family Law, adding one day a gentleman stopped her in the courthouse and asked if she was Cindy Hopper. She nodded and he told her "You got me full custody of my son. He just graduated from U.C. Davis. He's an engineer. It wouldn't have happened without you." Another time a woman stopped her and said "Can I hug you? I want to thank you. You helped me get my children back."

She explains "These children (one was obviously an adult now) are doing well. It's about helping people, using the courts to do that, because sometimes they get themselves involved in circumstances that are beyond their control. That is what the Courts are here to do—to help people."

Cindy is delighted that she has been assigned as a Child Support Commissioner under the Family Law Division. She remembers her interview with the Executive Committee of the Court. It was nerve wracking being interviewed by eight of the

finest bench officers in the State. She told them they would not be sorry for hiring her because her work ethic is impeccable. Cindy recalls her years working as an Assistant Manager for Thrifty's Drug Stores. "My work ethic is strong. I put myself through school, and through law school."

The hardest part in making the transition from private attorney to Court Commissioner was not shutting down her practice; it was putting her law license on hold (in abeyance). "I'm not an attorney anymore," she lamented, adding that 20 years of practicing law and being an attorney had become part of her identity. She consoles herself by remembering her number one role, relating to a certain 16-year-old. "I'm Keegan's Mom and I always will be."

As for deciding Child Support cases, she feels she can be extremely effective. "Child support can be a very tough assignment as you are dealing with people, their children and their money. However it is the State of California's public policy that the children in our community and in our State are to be financially provided for. And isn't that what we want anyway as a society, to take care of our children?"

Toni Mims-Cochran Appointed Commissioner

Oakland native Toni Mims-Cochran (Law '96) says she always knew she wanted to be an attorney, even though she had an unlikely start.

The self-described “inner city girl who lived in not always in the best neighborhoods” remembers as a child accompanying her dad to work at his auto body shop and trying to learn everything about the cars there. She became better and better at diagnosing the problems with each car, but her father eventually started ordering her off the floor of the shop, telling her to go in the office and read a book. Still, she says she could diagnose the problem of each incoming auto just by hearing its engine sound.

She seemed even further away from her dream of becoming an attorney when she moved out on her own at the age of 16, and farther yet when she became a single mother at the age of 18. She enrolled at California State University Chico, majoring in business. Around this time, her dad started asking her what she was doing to pursue her dream as an attorney. She changed majors, graduated, and began applying to law schools.

She was accepted at SJCL, or, as she puts it, “They picked me. I really appreciate the opportunity they gave me, allowing me to

pursue this path. I wouldn't have been able to do it without them believing in me.” It also helped that her Fiancé was attending Fresno State at the time.

Law school was not easy. She recalls one class where she would attend the beginning of each class, then turn on a recorder and leave to pick up her son at school and take him to the babysitter. Afterwards, she would return to class, stop the recorder, and resume taking her notes. She laughs as she recalls “Everyone knew what I was doing. But no one ever complained or tried to stop me.”

While she didn't have time for an externship during the school year, she returned home to Oakland each summer where she worked for an attorney friend of her Dad, who specialized in Personal Injury cases.

After graduation, she moved back to Oakland, adding “I did not set out to be a Judicial Officer. I just wanted to return to my community to give back. There were so many little ways that people helped me, and those small kindnesses were huge to me.”

She gave back in a big way, opening her own law firm, but also volunteering



for a lot of court-appointed cases, serving as temporary judge for three years and as a mediator for the Unlawful Detainer Mediation program. She also served as President of the Alameda County Bar Association, Co-Chair for the East Bay Diversity Bar Coalition, Second Vice President of California Women Lawyers and three terms as President of Women Lawyers of Alameda County.

At one point, she says “I started to get notice from people who asked if I had considered becoming a judge.” It sounded like a good idea. So she took on even more volunteer work and leadership positions, believing “If it happens, great. If not, I am still a better person.”

Commissioner Mims-Cochran is thrilled with her assignment to the Family Law Department, where she will be “working to protect the best interest of children and families.” She points to her private practice experience representing children in Family Law cases, saying she is very happy to have this background before she was elevated to the bench.

The SJCL connection carried on after her appointment, when she found herself in judges' orientation at the same time Erin Childs (Law '02), who served a year as a Fresno County Court Commissioner in the Family Law Department before moving to the same position in San Luis Obispo County.

But what about the fiancé she followed to Fresno? “Oh, we broke up in my third year of law school,” she says, adding with a laugh “and he really regrets it. Every single day.”



Fresno County Bar Association Honors SJCL Alumni

Paul C. Mullen (Law '01) has been named Pro Bono Attorney of the Year by the Fresno County Bar Association. The FCBA writes "Mullen is the Supervising Attorney of the Voluntary Legal Services Program at Central California Legal Services. He is responsible for CCLS' pro bono program, which includes recruiting volunteer attorneys and law students, supervising all volunteer legal services and clinics, conducting attorney and staff training, in addition to managing various grant projects throughout the Central Valley. Mr. Mullen's practice areas include civil litigation, employment, real estate/housing, personal injury, immigration and family law.

"Mr. Mullen received his Juris Doctor from San Joaquin College of Law (2001), a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from California State University Fresno (1996), and an Associate of Arts and Paralegal Studies Certificate from Fresno City College (1993). He has a Certificate in Nonprofit Management through the One Justice Executive Fellowship program.

"Mr. Mullen is also an instructor at Fresno City College, where for the past 14 years, he has taught civil litigation in the Paralegal Studies Program, business law and real estate classes. He also teaches the "Street Law" class at the School of Unlimited Learning.

"Mr. Mullen's past pro bono work includes sitting as a family law Judge Pro Tem (Fresno County Superior Court) and volunteering for San Joaquin College of Law's New American Legal Clinic. Presently, Mr. Mullen sits on the board of directors for the Law Practice Institute and assists the Fresno City College Student Paralegal Association. He also volunteers at Robinson Elementary School (School Site Council and P.T.A.). He has six children ages, 5 to 22, and lives in Fresno."



The Fresno County Bar Association presented **Paul Mullen** the *Pro Bono Attorney of the Year* award at the Law Day Luncheon. (L-R) **Ana De Alba**, FCBA Pro Bono Services Section Chair, **Paul Mullen** (Law '01), and **Adam Stirrup** (Law '08), Fresno County Bar Association President



At the same luncheon, SJCL student **Whitney Hendricks** received the *FCBA Lawyers' Memorial Scholarship*.

Mario G. Olmos Memorial Banquet



Congratulations to students **Emilio Avellaneda**, **Adam Awad**, **Ali Huda**, and **Christina Pina**, winners of scholarships at the 2017 Mario G. Olmos Memorial Banquet on April 7, 2017.

SJCL Alumni in the Media



Senior Deputy D.A. **Sally Moreno** (Law '95) was interviewed by *Clovis Roundup* reporter **Alexandria Montes** (right) for a profile piece in the April issue.



The Business Journal was in the house on March 15th. Reporter **David Castillon** was working on a story about the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*. Here, he grabs a shot of both current *Law Review* Board Members and Attorney **David Weiland** (Law '92), who was Managing Editor of the first Volume of the *SJALR* in 1991. The *SJALR* is the oldest Agricultural Law Review in the country.

Graduation FROM PAGE 1

his fellow graduates resoundingly echoed that point. Here are some quotes from those statements:

“The biggest thank you to my husband, Shawn, for supporting me always, even while deployed. You’re our hero.” –Andrea Chapman

“To my husband, Nic – Thank you for pushing me toward my goals and for still choosing to marry me after witnessing eight semesters of law school and finals.” –Brittaney Contreras

“A special thank you to my mother, who sacrificed everything to get me here. We did it, Mom!” –Jocelyne Hering

“I would also like to give a very special thanks to my wife for providing me with love, support, and most importantly, food.” –Matthew Lear

“Thank you to my beautiful mother; words cannot express my gratitude. I hope I’ve made my community proud.” –Manuel Parra Jr.

“Working full time and attending law school at night was not easy. By the time I got home from class, everyone was asleep, even the dog. I am so lucky my husband is amazing and my kids are the best!” –Christina Piña

“I would like to thank my family, particularly my parents, for the support they have given me. Dad, I know I ignored your advice and followed your footsteps anyway...” –Allison Ryan

“I would like to thank my friends who remain from before I started law school, as some didn’t last the ordeal, and I would also like to thank my friends from law school who stuck by me only because they understand the struggles.” –Kuljit Singh

While the graduates took time to reflect back on what has led to their success, the Commencement Address speaker, Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp (Law ’95), redirected their focus to the future.

“Being a lawyer is really the chance to make a difference in the lives of other human beings. As a lawyer, you have the



opportunity to be the voice for people who sometimes don’t have an audible voice of their own. In my world, those people are the victims of crime.”

She spoke about how, after her first six months as a Deputy District Attorney in Madera, living paycheck to paycheck, her mother asked her how she felt about her decision. Smittcamp told her “Mom, I’d do this job for free. It’s the best job I’ve ever had.”

She adds “This June, I will celebrate my 20th year in what I believe is the best job on Earth. I have made my community a safer place to live, and I have served thousands of victims.”

In closing, Smittcamp told the Class of 2017 “My law degree from San Joaquin College of Law allows me the privilege to improve the lives of other people. I hope you will use yours to do the same.”



GRADUATION: A CELEBRATION OF *Friends & Family*



Masquerade Ball

Wind swept down the street and a few sprinkles threatened to bring their friends for a down-pour in downtown Fresno on the evening of March 24th, but those swept inside a certain historic building felt like they had been swept to a different climate.

“The Grand” was the perfect place for the grand occasion that was the Student Bar Association’s Masquerade Scholarship Banquet; the room was filled with the aromas of fantastic foods, the site of glam-

orous raffle prizes, and the swell of a crowd bedecked in their masked finest!

Along with good conversation, prizes, and treats, congratulations were offered for the 2017 Students of the Year, including Angad Puniani (1L), Osmundo Arguello (2L), BreAnne Ruelas (3L), and Heidi Falany (4L). Professor Christine Goodrich was named Faculty of the Year while Adjunct Faculty of the Year went to Professor Andy Kucera. More congratulations go out to all the scholarship winners.



Student **Whitney Hendricks** with her husband **Brandon**



Kayla (Law '17) and **Craig Waters** (Law '16)



Scott (Law '10) and **Nicea Darling** (Law '12), **Kristina Garabedian** (Law '14), and Dean **Jan Pearson**

Abota Memorial Scholarship
Kayla Waters

Alumni Association Carolyn T. Mirviss Scholarship
Emilio Avellaneda

Alumni Association Spirit of SJCL Scholarship
Jodie Howard

Baradat & Paboojian Trial Advocacy Scholarship
Jorge Gallegos

Bertha & John Garabedian Military Service Scholarship
Andrea Chapman and Michael Kerr

CCBA Scholarship
Syuzanna Martirosyan, Brandon Hamparzoomian, and Monica Rast

Cartier First Year Improvement Scholarship
Rena Harrison

Clovis Soroptimist Woman’s Advocate Award
Rachel Baskin

Darryl B. Freedman Bar Study Support Scholarship
Shanna Hesketh

Delta Theta Phi Scholarships
Sara Tarasevic and Adriana Mendoza-Gurrola

Elizabeth O’Neill Memorial Scholarship
Shannon Wentworth

Ernest Kinney Trial Lawyer Scholarship
Tiffany Pack

Hammerschmidt/Broughton Criminal Practice Scholarship
Whitney Hendricks

Florentino Jose Memorial Scholarship
Cassandra Sheanh

Ibarra/Casillas LawSUIT Scholarship
Rena Harrison

Janice Pearson Scholarship
Jennifer Nguyen-Bui

Judy Wiseman Memorial Scholarship
Christina Pina

Ken Coyle Memorial Scholarship
Ali Huda

Kharazi Bar Study Support Scholarship
D’Artagnan Montrose

LawSuit Scholarship
Adriana Mendoza-Gurrola

Legal Edge Consumer Scholarship
Kelsey Seib

Leon S. Peters Foundation Leadership Awards
Jaskaran Gill, Jasdeep Lasher, Jason Crockford, Kuljit Singh, and Raquel Busani

Proctor Scholar of the Year
Ingrid Caero

Robert F & Kathryn S. Price Scholarship
Ingrid Caero

SJCL Founder’s Scholarship
Ingrid Caero

SBA Law Scholarships
MERIT: **Tirzah Umana**

NEED: **Richard Placido**

PARTICIPATION: **Fabian Perez**



The *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* Volume 26 Board welcomed Volume 27 Board Members. (L-R): **Jaskaran Gill**, Executive Editor, Vol 26; **Breanne Ruelas**, Notes & Comments Editor, Vol 26 & Assistant Editor-in-Chief, Vol 27; **Ryan Lopez**, Managing Editor, Vol 26, & Editor-in-Chief, Vol 27; **John Soares**, Production Editor, Vol 27; **Andrea Chapman**, student writer for Vol 26; **Annemarie Monique Taylor**, Community Liaison Editor, Vol 27; **Jennifer Nguyen-Bui**, Executive Editor, Vol 27; **Christina Cardenas-Gonzalez**, Notes & Comments Editor, Vol 27; and **Allison Ryan**, Editor in chief, Vol 26. NOT PICTURED: **Kuljit Singh**, Production Editor, Vol 26.



(L-R) Staff members **Diane Skouti**, **Beth Pitcock**, **Joyce Morodomi**, and **Diane Steel**



Chineme Anyadiegwu (Law '03) with her husband **Bronson**



BreAnne Ruelas (3L) with **Mark Broughton**, who was on hand to present the *Hammerschmidt/Broughton Criminal Practice Scholarship*.



Law Professor and NALC Director **Gregory Olson** (right) congratulates **Justin Sweeney** (left), winner of the Pro Bono Volunteer of the Year award for the New American Legal Clinic. Sweeney has been extremely helpful in accompanying NALC clients to their immigration interviews over the past year. Sweeney's daughter accompanied him as he accepted the award.

SJCL Toasts February Bar Passers

Eleven San Joaquin College of Law February Barpassers turned up for the traditional Champagne Toast on Monday, May 22, 2017

“I have never heard such a high-pitched scream in my life.” Barpasser Mario Gonzalez says that eerie noise was coming from his mom, upon hearing of his success. She would know first-hand what it was like. His mom, Leah Cole, along with his sister, Rachel Gonzalez, and his brother-in-law, Michael Mahoney, are all San Joaquin College of Law grads and previous barpassers.

Chris Matthes managed to turn learning he passed the bar into a family affair by having his wife and son join him in simultaneously pressing the computer key which would show whether he passed. This is more difficult than it sounds, because his son, Christoph, was not due to be born for another ten days.

Mario and Chris were among the SJCL barpassers toasted at the traditional Champagne Reception. Many were not only celebrating landing a bar card, but also landing a job.

Both Joe Alindajao and Diego Andrade have been picked up by the Tulare County District Attorney’s Office, with Diego just learning he had been hired that morning, while Alison Morris De Young becomes a Deputy DA for Fresno County. Jordan Brown had the “you pass, you’re hired” offer in hand from Sullivan and Sullivan Law Corporation, Sean Fredin had a similar offer from Lloyd Winter P.C., Ryan Kalashian starts work as an attorney for Marderosian & Cohen, Chris Matthes has been picked up by Campagne & Campagne and Leila Alamri-Kassim becomes an Associate Attorney at Lozano Smith.

Others, like Jeffrey Boggs and Erik Hawkins, have long dreamed of opening their own private practices.



FRONT ROW (L-R): **Joe Alindajao, Leila Alamri-Kassim, and Mario Gonzalez**
MIDDLE ROW (L-R): **Daniel Martin, Chris Matthes, and Jordan Brown**
BACK ROW (L-R): **Sean Fredin, Ryan Kalashian, Erik Hawkins, Jeffrey Boggs, and Diego Andrade**
ALSO PASSING BUT NOT PICTURED: **Michael Culver, Stephanie Kokka, Elizabeth Morgan, Alison Morris De Young, and Kim Nakagawa**

The exact number of SJCL barpassers is not known. The State Bar no longer releases that information to law schools. SJCL has received word of 16 that passed the February Bar, but that could change. Last November, the Law School discovered two more barpassers after they simply showed up at the Champagne Reception and another called the Law School the

next day. A fourth barpasser turned up at the Bar Admissions Ceremony and a fifth called SJCL six months later to let the Law School know he had also passed.

If you are an SJCL July Barpasser not mentioned here, please contact the Law School for a cup of congratulations!

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 *SJALR*, 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 previous 25 Volumes are available on line at sjcl.edu/sjalr.

Professional articles are always welcome. Contact Volume 26 *SJALR* Executive Editor Jaskaran Gill at jaskaran.gill@student.sjcl.edu for more information.



This Comment, along with the entire 27th Volume and the previous 26 Volumes are available at www.sjcl.edu/sjalr.

Professional articles are always welcome.

Contact Jennifer Nguyen-Bui at jennifer.nguyen-bui@student.sjcl.edu for more information.

The New Frontier: How Sharing Of Big Data In Agriculture Interferes With The Protection Of Farmers' Ownership Rights Over Their Data

BY JOHN SOARES, PRODUCTION EDITOR, SAN JOAQUIN AGRICULTURAL LAW REVIEW

Agricultural technology advancements have moved many farmers into relationships with Agricultural Technology Providers (ATP) so that the farmers can remain productive. Typically, this relationship can be shown through the ATP's analysis of Ag Data produced by the farmers they contract with, called Ag Data Prescriptions. The help provided by ATPs through their data based prescriptions can improve yields per acre, help save input costs, and help the environment through lesser need for large amounts of pesticides and chemicals. However, there is a significant lack of clarity about the ownership rights of Ag Data. It is unclear whether farmers own their data to begin with or surrender ownership rights once the ATP receives the data for analysis.

This comment demonstrates that while farmers generally own their data, current

law and standards within the agricultural industry fails to adequately define or protect their property rights in the data. The farmers' alleged ownership is undetermined due to the lack of legal recognition of ownership of data by the United States and the inherent anonymization by the ATP's aggregation of the data they receive, opening the farmer up to potential harm if that data can be freely used by an ATP. Furthermore, privacy and property law, as they currently exist, could potentially include data within the guidelines set by their rules, but currently appear more likely to provide no protection over data. Farmers have begun to fear that if their data fell into the wrong hands, it could be used against them through sale to competitors or undercutting neighbors for better land price deals.

This Comment will further demonstrate that farmers and legislators have a number

of ways to protect ownership of Ag Data. First, contractual actions, namely industry standardization or adding nondisclosure or licensing agreements, could give farmers enough protection over their data to ensure that any data shared will not be used against them. Second, enacting legislative action similar to trade secret or HIPAA protection can provide farmers with sufficient protection for their Ag Data. Finally, data consolidation could ensure that access to the data and how it can be used remains at a farmer's sole discretion.

We stand on the edge of a new frontier, faced with a new set of legal challenges arising from an ever-evolving technological future. As shown by these circumstances, failure to provide adequate protection of farmers' ownership rights over their Ag Data will allow for the occurrence of numerous potential abuses against which farmers will have very little protection.

Alumni Association Supports Students & Graduates

BY FAITH LISLE DRISCOLL, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION VICE PRESIDENT

In an effort to provide graduating students with a leg up on preparing for the July California Bar Examination, Alumni Association board members met with students on April 3rd to provide them with tips and tricks for tackling the test. Natalie M. Packer (Law '08), Chineme C. Anyadiegwu (Law '03) and Faith L. Driscoll (Law '13) (pictured) presented their personal experiences of how they found success through various methods. Students were able to ask questions about the best study practices and learn from the mistakes made by their predecessors. The Alumni Association wishes all the best to these future bar passers!

After graduation and the bar examination, many alums are left wondering about the other looming issue - student loan repayment. On April 4th the Alumni Association hosted a Lunch & Learn event focusing on how grads can plan for repay-



ment. There are several repayment methods available, and each has its pros and cons. Certified Student Loan Advisor Jantz Hoffman was on hand to provide helpful information about student loan repayment options and the impact of various strategies. Mr. Hoffman is planning to return in the fall for an encore presentation.

Don't miss out on an opportunity to hear from an expert in this arena. To join the Alumni Association, visit sjcl.edu/alumni to access the membership application and pay dues.

If you would like to receive notifications of future events, please contact Diane at dskouti@sjcl.edu or 559/323-2100.

Judy Wiseman Memorial Tournament

Neither Rain, Nor Wind,
Nor Portentous Forecasts...

Despite the ominous weather forecasts for wind, rain, doom, and gloom, the team from the Law Office of Lance Armo took the first-place spot in the 14th Annual San Joaquin College of Law Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament, April 8th. Nearly 50 hearty golfers came prepared to brave the storm, but like a scene in the "Ten Commandments", the threatening clouds parted just after the starting shotgun, allowing streams of sunlight to beam down upon the rain soaked grass. The gorgeous green space of Dragonfly Golf Club was set aglow as if it had been staged, complete with cotton tail bunnies sweetly hopping about.

As the last foursome made their way back to the clubhouse, the clouds again



2017 Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament winning team from the Law Office of Lance Armo, (L-R) **Lance Armo** (Law '95), **JR Lawson**, **John Sylvia**, and **Tim Bennett** (Law '06).

The team from the Law Office of Michael Elder took 2nd place after a tie breaker.

let loose with a sudden downpour, as if on cue. It would seem that the purpose of the annual fundraiser (student scholarships and programs at the law school) was deemed worthy of a little help in the

weather department. The golfers reported having a terrific time. The Alumni Association wishes to thank all who participated. Hope to see you again next year!

Alumnus Becomes Newest Mover & Shaker in Clovis

The City of Clovis' newest Council member, Vong Mouanoutoua (Law '02) attributes an ingrained devotion to community service for his pursuit of council membership, after serving for ten years on the Clovis Planning Commission. "Serving the community is highly regarded, and an important part of Hmong culture," Vong said, as he showed us around the council chambers on a recent visit. "The elders always say to go and serve the public, give back," he said. And that's exactly what Vong is doing.

As a child growing up in Laos, Vong and his siblings were rooted to the value of public service. His dad was a Magistrate of the Court in the Capitol of Laos, and his uncle was the mayor of a province. Vong's grandfather, a businessman, was frustrated by associates who spoke multiple languages, to his exclusion. He didn't like being left out of the loop, or the possibility

of being cheated, so he made sure his seven sons went to school.

After immigrating to the United States in 1976, civic engagement, in addition to academic achievement, was still highly encouraged in Vong's family. He chuckled as he described a common ritual at family gatherings, then as now, where the cousins are lined up around a room, by age. One by one, they are questioned about what they are studying in school and their grade point average. "Everyone took it very seriously, and no one wanted to look bad, so most studied to become doctors or engineers." Vong says he originally planned to be a doctor too, but realized he wasn't much into the sciences upon entering college. During his second year at UCLA, an advanced calculus professor convinced him he might make a better attorney. Upon moving to Fresno, Vong attained a paralegal certificate at Fresno City College. His success there convinced him to enroll in SJCL.

After law school, Vong volunteered on campaigns for local politicians, and participated in a civil service academy for which he received scholarships. A well written thank you note was his catalyst to civil service. The donor of the scholarship was impressed enough with Vong to recommend he join the Clovis City Planning Commission. The fit was perfect. "America is a nation of laws," Vong says. "Everything (with regard to city planning) goes back to the planning laws and codes already in place." Vong says his contributions to the planning commission were based on legality. "To me, the commission was bound by the land use laws, since every decision must be based on a rule or a document that came before. It's our duty to understand what consequences will result from each decision."

Even though Vong additionally worked for ten years with Paul Lo, who was at the time, the only Hmong law firm serving the Hmong community, he never really loved the practice of law. "I loved the working with people part, but not the court part,"



he said. So he moved his talents to the non-profit sector. For the past five years, Vong has served as the Solar Director of Fresno's Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC). He oversees a state grant totaling \$10.5 million, which Vong says aids low and fixed income citizens with solar photovoltaic system installations on their homes. The grant spans from Sacramento County all the way south to Orange County. Vong says he has no plans to quit his day job, now that he's a councilman. He says working with the EOC is very rewarding, and the city council gig is about giving back.

Vong says his goal as the new guy on the council is to help maintain the level of success the city of Clovis has already achieved, but he also strives to encourage more civic participation. "I take this seriously," he said. "How do we make the city council more visible in the community? How can we be present, and engage the community so that we understand their needs?" To answer these questions, Vong meets with community groups to highlight city functions and services, and to hear their concerns.

Like his elders before him, Vong says his message to constituents' mirrors that of his culture. "Civic service is important," he says. "We need more people to see that."

Thank you to the sponsors of the Alumni Association's 14th Annual Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament

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The Alumni—Eight of the Fresno County Counsel’s Office

Because SJCL is the lone law school in more than a 100 mile radius, the level of congeniality among the local legal community is quite high.



(L-R) **Kevin Stimmel** (Law '13), **Lisa (Craig) Flores** (Law '13), **Libby Hellwig** (Law '14), **Rebecca Eropkin** (Law '10), **Kyle Roberson** (Law '12), **Peter Wall** (Law '08), **Jane Smith** (Law '89), **Brent Woodward** (Law '04).

Lisa (Craig) Flores (Law '13), Deputy County Counsel of the Fresno County Counsel's Office, says the unique status of her alma mater as a small but mighty law school makes for terrific, and rare, comradery among legal peers. The seven fellow SJCL grads who work alongside Lisa in the County Counsel's Office agree. Of the 23 attorneys with in the office, eight are SJCL alumni.

"I don't think you see this level of reception and co-operation among legal communities a lot," Lisa said during our recent firm visit to the County Counsel's Office, and our jovial, but highly dedicated grads. Deputy County Counsel attorney Peter Wall (Law '08) agrees. "Out-of-area attorneys come to Fresno, especially those from L.A., and assume we are all rubes or hicks because we didn't move to the bigger cities to practice law, but there is a huge, (and beneficial) comradery here," he said. "My aspiration has always been to stay here

and contribute...and surprise those outside lawyers by lying in wait!

Kyle Roberson (Law '12), who joined the office as a Deputy County Counsel attorney in 2016, said there is great contrast between the good will and sincerity of local attorneys, and the competitive, cut-throat nature of out-of-area lawyers.

Kevin Stimmel (Law '13) said his law school classmates provided support, rather than competition to one another. "It's easier to focus on the issues and do a great job when you're not worrying about competing with your colleagues." And it's the same out in the legal community.

Peter added that the work of the County Counsel is collegial by nature. "Up and down the state, we work with other County Counsel Offices in a highly co-operative atmosphere."

Peter says the County Counsel's Office is a great environment for an attorney, due to the diversity of issues that come before

them. He says most people, even other attorneys, don't often understand what County Counsel attorneys do. As lawyers for the county Board of Supervisors and all County departments, they handle an extensive variety of issues.

Due to the physical size and population of the area served, county departments and services are widespread. The largest employer served by the County Counsel's Office is Fresno County Social Services, with some 7,000 employees alone. The mission statement for the county counsel is "To provide legal services to the Board of Supervisors, the CAO, and the County departments, boards, and agencies to enable them to carry out their mandated and discretionary functions relating to the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Fresno County." A huge responsibility, that is also hugely rewarding, according to our alums.

SEE FRESNO COUNTY COUNSEL PAGE 21

Dear Faux Amici

In the “Dear Professors” segment, I answer pressing and topical legal questions generated by my own perfervid imagination every month or you can submit your question to jpurvis@sjcl.edu.

BY JEFFREY G. PURVIS, CONSTITUTIONAL LAW PROFESSOR

Dear Professors

I consider myself a moderate conservative, which means that I don't always agree with what politicians like Trump, McConnell and Ryan are doing. But I agree much less with what liberal politicians and liberals like you do, Professor Purvis. When I saw on my Twitter feed that this month's Valley Views on the Law show was about the constitutional rights of sexual predators, it reminded me of why I could never support left-wing causes. How could anyone say it is wrong to keep registered sex offenders from using social media like Facebook? These animals will simply use it as a way to identify and attack new victims. You can't say that you are defending the innocent, because the criminals affected by laws that ban them from social media have already been convicted after a fair trial. What possible justification can you offer for holding that such laws are unconstitutional? Part of the reason why Trump is President and the Republican Party controls all three branches of the federal government is because liberal take positions like supporting the rights of sexual predators.

– Dutch Reagan, Tampico, Ill.

I disagree with you about why Trump is President, Mr. Reagan--that happened because the Republican Party successfully engaged in voter suppression and because people who could have voted for Democratic candidates didn't bother to actually vote. Also, three million more people voted for Hillary Clinton for President than voted for Trump. What's new about American politics and culture now is that confirmation bias is so entrenched that people like Trump can lie outrageously and constantly without suffering any negative consequences.

But you ask for a justification for protecting the constitutional rights of sex offenders, and I want to offer one. Many, if not most, Americans, are only concerned when their own rights are in danger. Liberals value rights that enhance personal freedom; conservatives support rights that empower profit-seeking. But one thing that everyone can agree upon is that criminals don't deserve any rights. That usually includes persons accused of criminal activity, but is applied very strongly to those convicted of a crime. (Of course, celebrities and those convicted of stealing immense amounts of money are generally excepted from this treatment.) I am no fonder of criminal behavior than anyone else, but I believe it is critical to protect the constitutional rights of everyone, in all circumstances, in order to insure that my own constitutional rights will be protected. Once constitutional rights are diminished for an identified group, it becomes easier for government to gradually increase the number of groups who are subject to diminished rights. So we must all assiduously and vigilantly oppose any violation of the constitution, and promote a coherent and just set of rules, applied logically and neutrally, to determine when such a violation occurs.

Sexual violence is a terrible wrong, and sexual assaults that target children are beyond despicable. Our society is not very successful at dealing with any crime, and bounces between ineffective rehabilitation and draconian punishment for convicted criminals. (See previous exception.) I don't know what to do about sexual offenders, but I do not think that a registered sex offender forfeits his constitutional right to freedom



of speech. This doesn't require that he be given total access to social media, it requires that government restrictions on his access to social media be subject to meaningful constitutional scrutiny. Supporting and defending the Constitution shouldn't be a liberal political position or a conservative political position, or any political position at all. If, after appropriate constitutional analysis, a court decides that convicted sex offenders can constitutionally be barred from social media, so be it. If America can elect a President who proudly proclaimed that he grabbed women's genitals, an act of sexual violence, then we can certainly deliberate about whether certain criminals should be permitted to utilize social media, even in a restricted fashion, without being accused of facilitating or condoning sexual violence against children.

Staff Happenings



Sometimes you just gotta laugh! On May 25th, SJCL faculty and staff took part in Red Nose Day, a campaign “dedicated to raising money for children and young people living in poverty.” (L-R) Part-time employee **Emily Sirabian**; staff members **Lonzetta Hightower**, **Beth Pitcock**, **Jeannie Lewis**, **Joyce Morodomi**, **Kenia Garcia**, and **Ana Yansi Gonzalez**.



SJCL welcomes **Ana Yansi Gonzalez** as the new Administrative Assistant for the New American Legal Clinic. Ana Yansi’s three-plus years of work experience with a major Immigration law firm will give her a huge advantage as she supports the efforts of NALC. She has a degree from Fresno State in Psychology and is currently a United States Army Reserve Soldier.



A little iced coffee and bagels to celebrate Administrative Professionals Day at SJCL? Oh, YES please! (L-R) **Francisco Rosas**, **Kerry Hanson**, **Victoria Denny**, **Beth Pitcock**, **Jeannie Lewis**, **Carlyn Robinson**, and **Lonzetta Hightower**.

Fresno County Counsel

FROM PAGE 19

Such diversity of duty requires the expertise of professionals with thorough and comprehensive preparation. Long-time Deputy County Counsel attorney Jane Smith (Law '89), said her education at SJCL with professors like Michael Smith, helped to hone the research and writing skills of her graduating class. "Our class of '89 had a very high bar pass rate," she said.

Deputy County Counsel attorney Brent Woodward (Law '04) says his appreciation of his SJCL professors continues to grow with time. "Like your parents, you learn just how good they are as time goes on," he said. "The list of great instructors is impressive," added Brent, listing among them "Christine Goodrich, Judge Conklin and Magistrate Boone, Judge Chittick, Sally Perring, and Rich Cartier, who was outstanding."

The fact that the instructors are practicing attorneys provides students with good exposure to the legal community while they are still in school, along with real world experience, says Rebecca Eropkin (Law '10). "It helps to know some familiar faces once you are out in the work world," she said.

Libby Hellwig (Law '14) agreed. "My internship at the District Attorney's office enabled me to get to know those I would work with, once I was done with law school," she said.

Kyle added that local governments demand quality attorneys. "SJCL alumni have a strong footprint here in government, which is a testament to SJCL and the quality of attorneys they produce. Local government attorneys with local roots are invested in the outcomes of their efforts, which creates strong communities with strong institutions." Rubes and hicks in Fresno? Afraid not L.A. Most definitely not.

SJCL Receives New Deodar Cedar Tree



Members of the Weldon Elementary School Student Council joined with Clovis City Department leaders to plant a replacement deodar cedar tree in front of San Joaquin College of Law on March 10th. Its predecessor fell across 5th Street a few years ago. The students, working three on the same shovel at times, poured themselves into the task.

Clovis Parks Manager Eric Aller said the planting marks the city's eighth annual Arbor Day celebration. In between telling his volunteers to "tap that dirt," "level the bottom of that hole" and "save that worm," he offered them congratulations on a job well done and hopes that the tree will be healthy and bring joy for many years to come.



Thank you for your support!

August 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017

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SJCL ON THE MOVE

New job? Big promotion? Special honor?
Send your info to mcartier@sjcl.edu and be part of the “SJCL on the Move!”

Leila Alamri-Kassim (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney at Lozano Smith.

Joe L. Alindajao (Law '16) is now a Tulare County Deputy District Attorney.

Diego E. Andrade (Law '16) is now a Tulare County Deputy District Attorney.

Satnum “Sam” Brar (Law '12) is now a Partner at Adelson, Testan, Brundo, Novell & Jimenez.

Jordan L. Brown (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney at Sullivan and Sullivan Law Corporation.

William E. Buttry (Law '12) has been promoted to the position of Senior Attorney in the Fresno Offices of Ericksen Arbuthnot, where he specializes in complex civil litigation.

William L. Chaddock (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney with Parker, Kern, Nard & Wenzel

Hon. Erin Childs (Law '02) is now a San Luis Obispo Court Commissioner after a year serving in the same position for Fresno County.

Scott W. Darling (Law '10) is now an associate attorney with Yruegui & Roberts.

Alison Morris De Young (Law '15) is now a Fresno County Deputy District Attorney.

Sean A. Fredin (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney at Lloyd Winter P.C.

Cynthia J. Hopper (Law '97) is now a Fresno County Court Commissioner.

Ryan B. Kalashian (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney at Marderosian & Cohen.

Amanda M. Kjar (Law '14) is now an Associate Attorney at Sagaser, Watkins & Wieland PC.

Danielle N. Kjar (Law '13) is now an Associate Attorney with the Hatmaker Law Group.

John “Chris” Matthes (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney at Campagne & Campagne.

Toni Mims-Cochran (Law '96) is now an Alameda County Court Commissioner.

Paul C. Mullen (Law '01) has been named Pro Bono Attorney of the Year by the Fresno County Bar Association.

Ron J. Nijmeddin (Law '04) is now Chief Child Support Attorney with the Fresno County Department of Child Support Services.

Natalie M Packer (Law '08) is now an Associate Attorney with the Law Office of Nancy J. Stegall APC (Law '96).

Jamie M. Palm (Law '13) is now a Fresno County Public Defender.

Jonas N. Parr (Law '14) is now an Associate Attorney at D'Andre, Peterson, Bobus & Rosenberg, LLP

Jordan M. Penner (Law '14) is now the Business Development Manager at Bitwise Industries.

Christina A. Roberson (Law '12) is now a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Fresno.

Craig A. Tristao (Law '07) is now an Associate Attorney with Coleman & Horowitz, LLP.

In Memoriam

We acknowledge with sadness the passing of **Thomas V. Dillon** (Law '01), on March 29, and **Barbara H. Allison** (Law '90), on June 10, from the San Joaquin College of Law Community.



SAN JOAQUIN COLLEGE OF LAW

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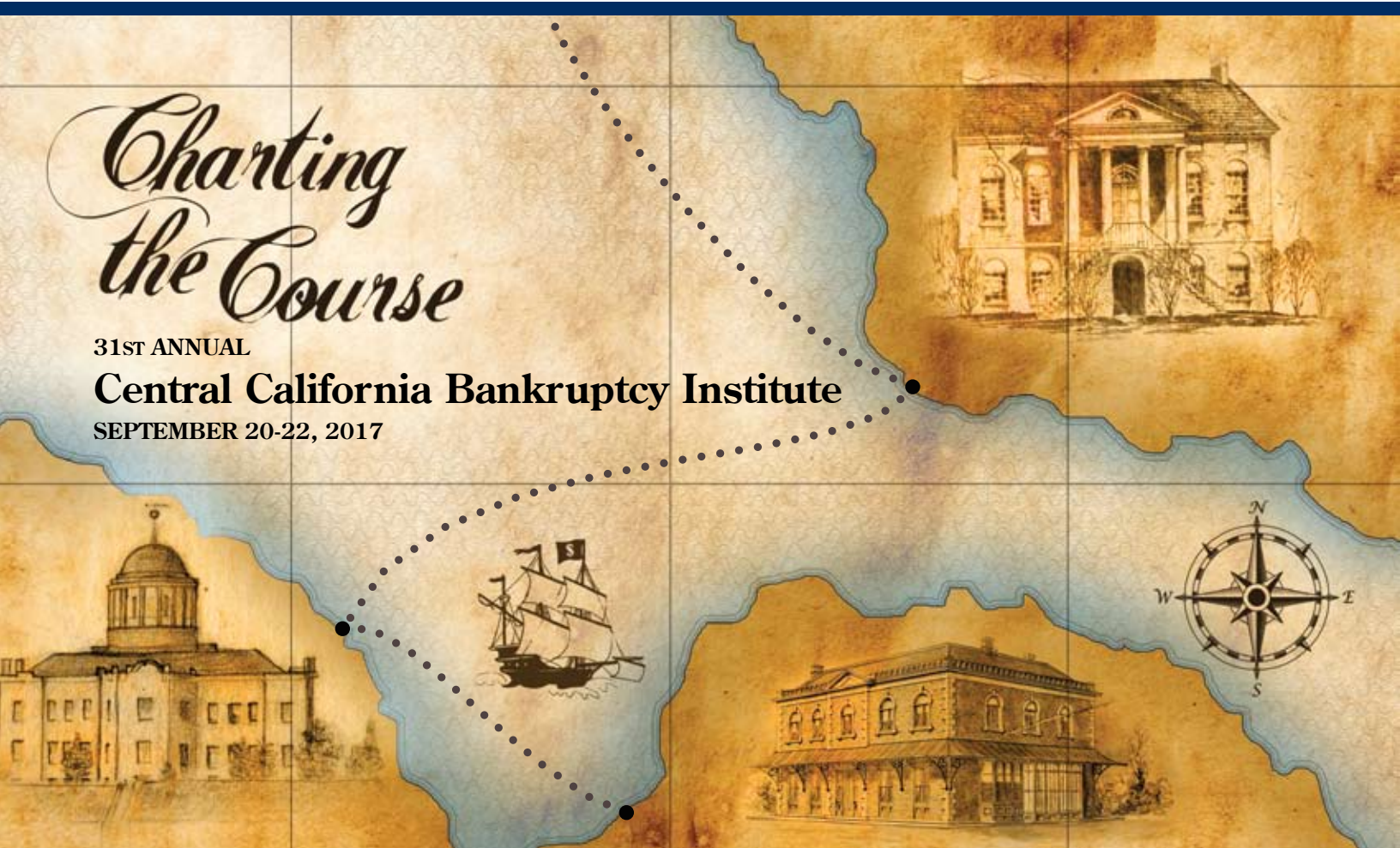
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Alumni Association Calendar of Events

2017

- Alumni Association Board meeting.....July 12
- Alumni Appreciation Night at the Grizzlies August 25
- SJCL Hall of FameSeptember 14
- Senior Citizens Law DayOctober 14

2018

- Got MCLE?.....January 6