



# Inter Alia

SAN JOAQUIN COLLEGE OF LAW • Volume 30, Issue 4

## Feting SJCL at Fifty

**T**he Smith Corona so-called “portable” manual typewriter on display at San Joaquin College of Law’s 50th Anniversary party weighs 19.6 pounds. The Honorable Gary Austin remembers taking the Bar when he graduated in 1976, bringing his trusty electric typewriter. Then someone accidentally turned off the power strip at his table during the exam. When the power was restored a couple minutes later, Judge Austin had already rolled his paper into a manual typewriter he had also carried, just in case.

He reflected on that as he proudly pointed to his name on a poster in the Law School’s jury box, listing him as one of the 53 graduates from SJCL who became Bench Officers. It seemed appropriate that all the “heavy lifting” has lifted him to where he is now.

Other Alumni Bench Officers in attendance at the Law School’s “Rememixer” on October 18th included Hon. Ashley Allred (Law ‘11), Hon. Jose Banuelos (Law ‘79), Hon. Amy Guerra (Law ‘07), and Hon. Ralph “Chip” Putnam (Law ‘75). Three

SEE REMEMIXER PAGE 10





## A Message From the Dean

The 50th Anniversary Year is coming to an end. The Picnic and Rememixer were so much fun! Personally, I utterly enjoyed seeing so many graduates again. The Law School history exhibits at the Rememixer were a real stroll down memory lane. Who will ever forget Judge Wanger's comments that drew a standing ovation and the incredible celebration cake? Or the food, the cornhole tournament, and the incredibly popular cake walk at the picnic?

**T**hank you to everyone who came to share the celebrations. Thank you to the donors whose incredible gifts defrayed the costs of the events. Thank you to the Alumni Association and students for their help. A huge thank you to all the SJCL staff that worked SO hard to make the events a success.

Doing Alumni-A-Day was a great pleasure as well because I got to talk to so many graduates and hear of their successes. I knew I would be impressed but their successes are beyond my wildest expectations. When we decided to do Alumni-A-Day we set some parameters. We wanted to feature active attorneys, not people who were retired or inactive. Going through the list of graduates, almost 1,000 individuals fit that criterion. We could continue to post for almost three years!! So, we strived for 20% of each class, which proved impossible for the smaller classes. We wanted career, employer, and geographic diversity. We may continue featuring alumni – including all the very successful and talented retired and inactive individuals, but at a much slower pace.

The 50th was a fun year but also a challenging one. Fortunately, the fundamentals of San Joaquin College of Law are sound, so it will be around for another 50!

Enjoy your holidays! Happy New Year! We wish you all the best!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice Pearson".

Janice Pearson

*Dean*

*San Joaquin College of Law*

# Inter Alia

Volume 30, Issue 4 • Winter 2019

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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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# Two Moms, One Big Change

BY JODIE HOWARD, DIRECTOR, BREN CLINIC

When your child is diagnosed with an intellectual or neurodevelopmental disability (I/DD), the search for necessary treatments and services begins. However, in California's Central Valley many of those services are hard to find. This is the story of two moms who have fought for a new option to develop the services locally, and how they united forces to bring the BREN Clinic to SJCL.

Alissa Malakan made countless trips to the Bay Area to find the services her daughter, diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, needed. Recognizing that many families in the Valley lacked the resources to keep traveling back and forth, Alissa decided to bring the services to the Valley. She founded Growing Resources for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders (GRAND) with the primary mission of raising funds to aid in the development and support of these missing services.

Jodie Howard, after advocating for the educational rights of her son and other students with disabilities, recognized the lack of legal information and advocacy tools available to local special needs families. She saw law school as a step toward developing these services in the Valley. After graduating from SJCL, Jodie worked with GRAND to secure a donation that would make the development of a free special education legal clinic a reality.

Currently, BREN provides special education law and advocacy training and community outreach programs designed to empower families and individuals to



Representatives from GRAND present a check for \$150,000 to aid in the growth of SJCL's newly-created BREN Clinic. (L-R) Academic Dean **Justin Atkinson**, GRAND Board of Directors Members **Alissa Malakan** and **Sarah Ellis**, BREN Director **Jodie Howard**, and Dean **Jan Pearson**.

help themselves and one another. Often families are at a disadvantage because they are unaware of their rights as well as the responsibilities of school districts. BREN aims to equalize the power base of the parent-school district advocacy team by bringing information, tools, and training to Valley families.

BREN offers a free 10-session course, open to the community, on Special Education Law. Each class dives into a specific part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the law which outlines the responsibilities of school districts in educating students with disabilities as well as the rights of those students and their parents.

BREN is also working on other components that we will roll out in Spring of 2020. For example, the Clinic is working

with Centro La Familia Advocacy Services to have our printed materials translated into Spanish and also to offer our courses in Spanish. We also plan to have law students, working under the Director's supervision, helping families navigate the complex Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process, the process by which special education services are determined and delivered. The BREN clinic will also be facilitating a network of peer-to-peer advocates comprised of individuals who have completed the 10-session course and can provide support to other special needs families. We also hope to organize an annual conference to keep our special needs community, both the individuals/families and professionals who serve them, apprised of the latest developments and practices in the Special Education field.

## 50 YEARS OF SJCL NOV. 1969

JAN. 1973

MAY 1974



San Joaquin College of Law is Founded by Hon. Dan Eymann, John Loomis, and Oliver Wanger

## DICTA

First Issue of the student publication *Dicta* is published, January 25. "San Joaquin College of Law is a professional institution, as such it merits and needs a professional publication: this is the philosophy of this year's 'DICTA' staff!"

– Richard Rossi (Law '75)  
*Dicta* Editor



First graduation was held at Pacific College Amphitheatre. The first class has 15 graduates.

# Business Street Online picks SJCL Alumna for “40 Under 40” Honors

Congratulations to Linda Barreto (Law '14) who has been named to Business Street Online’s “40 Under 40” Class of 2019.

Linda is the Director of SJCL’s New American Legal Clinic (NALC). Linda previously worked as a direct representation attorney with the national nonprofit organization “Kids in Need of Defense” (KIND). Prior to working with KIND, Linda was an associate attorney at Lazaro Salazar Law, Inc. where she handled a variety of immigration cases. As the daughter of a Mexican immigrant, she is committed to helping the migrant community and hopes to continue to serve them for many years to come.

Business Street Online says the annual list “recognizes some of the top young business professionals in the public and private sectors in Central California. They are leaders in their communities and have achieved great success before the age of 40. They were nominated by their peers and represent the future of the Central Valley.”

Considering the average age of a student at San Joaquin College of Law is 28, it isn’t easy for grads to achieve notability in the community before the age of 40. And yet, Linda is the fifth graduate to make the list in its 12 year history. Prior honorees include Lisa Bennett (Law ‘03), Adam Stirrup (Law ‘08), Sevag Tateosian (Law ‘08), and Rachelle Taylor Golden (Law ‘13).



DEC. 1974



The *Dicta* offered a special lifetime Pass for free admission to all SJCL athletic events!

DEC. 1975

Bar Pass rate for 2nd graduating class is 91.7%.

DEC. 1977

## SJCL No.1 In Bar Exam

Fremont's San Joaquin College of Law ranked first in California with the highest rate of passage for the 1978 State Bar examinations for students taking the exam for the first time, according to the Committee of Bar Examiners.

San Joaquin's pass rate was 93.8 percent. Stanford Law School was second with 89.7 percent and the University of Pacific 88.7 percent.

Bar Pass rate is 93%, highest ranking in State of California.

# Focus on the Law

## Alumni Perspectives on Practice

## Defending the Indefensible

“That is better 100 guilty Persons should escape than the one innocent Person should suffer.”

– Benjamin Franklin, March 14, 1785

BY EDDIE RUIZ, ESQ., CLASS OF 1995

This famous quotation from one of our founding fathers is a principle that has guided me in my career as a criminal defense attorney. I began my career at a local defense firm that represented indigent defendants. I learned very quickly that crimes are committed every day. Some crimes were not serious and others were very serious. I learned that there were many reasons why an individual committed a crime.

My duty was to defend my client. This often included explaining to the prosecutor and, ultimately a judge, why my client engaged in such conduct. Is my client a drug addict? Did my client come from an abusive childhood? Or is my client just a cold, calculating criminal? How can one

defend a child molester or a murderer? My answer is easy. If you or your loved one was accused of a crime, wouldn't you want to be represented by a professional who would vigorously present a defense?

One of my first trials involved a man who was being charged with Mayhem against a girlfriend. He was an older white man who had two prior strikes. He could receive a sentence of 25 to life if convicted. He was accused of biting off a piece of her ear. The girlfriend was a younger African-American woman who testified but came across as a drug-addicted prostitute. My client did not testify and sat next to me looking very unassuming. There was no dispute that my client did it. My client was acquitted, even though, when she



JAN. 1980



Oliver Wanger appointed Mary Louise Frampton as Associate Dean Academic Affairs.

SEPT. 1980



SJCL moves to East Shields Ave. campus (across the parking lot from the infamous donut shop).

NOV. 1981

Inaugural Paralegal Training Program convenes at SJCL

NOV. 1982



First Full-time Dean, Carol Sellers Herbert, hired for SJCL

testified, a portion of the girlfriend's ear was missing. My observation was that the jury did not like or believe the victim and viewed my client as a grandfather type. Was this justice? Many would say it was not. Nonetheless, I had a job to do.

Another client was accused of raping the victim. He was a law enforcement officer who met this woman on duty. While off duty, he communicated with the victim on a Friday night. They drove out to the countryside and had sex. He took her home and she promptly called the police accusing my client of raping her. My client was acquitted in part because we presented text messages that were sexually provocative in nature sent from the victim to my client. My client did lose his law enforcement job. Was this justice?

The morning before the verdict was announced, my client described the sadness and fear he felt hugging his two children goodbye knowing he might not be home to tuck them into bed that night. I was overcome with anxiety about losing this trial. I personally felt that my client was innocent. Luckily the jury agreed with me. My client was able to tuck his children into bed that night.

The great majority of criminal cases do not go to trial. The overwhelming reason is that the client did commit the crime and there is sufficient evidence for a conviction. The client may not want to risk going to trial and receiving a longer sentence or the client may not be able to afford the expense of a trial. Resolving cases short of trial is what criminal defense attorneys do on a daily basis. Many cases are straightforward. Many others involve disagreements and discussion about what punishment is appropriate.

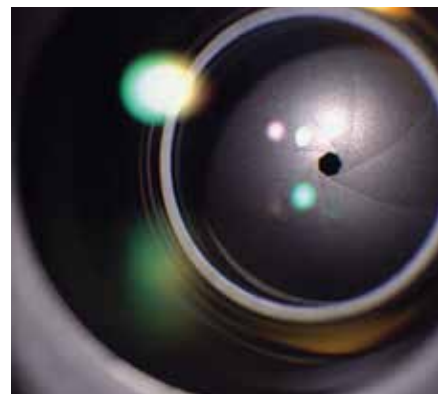
One recent case involved a young man driving who hit a pedestrian who was jogging. This young man made matters worse

by fleeing the scene. I surrendered him to authorities days later and he confessed. He had no prior record and from all accounts was a good guy. What should be his punishment? How much weight should be given to who the victim was? Does it matter if a victim was a homeless person or a model citizen loved by his family and community? Here, a mother lost her son, a wife lost her husband, and children lost their father, but the man's parents were also devastated that their child caused this tragedy and they didn't prevent it.

This case needed to be resolved short of trial. There was no reason to put any of the parties through the stress of a trial. My client was willing to accept the consequences of his action. Much discussion occurred in the community about the incident and what the punishment should be. My client received a prison sentence.

Less serious cases often have serious real-life consequences that a criminal defense attorney has to deal with daily. A truck driver who is convicted of a DUI will lose his job. A military reservist will lose his career after a non-violent felony conviction. An immigrant who has legal status through DACA will be deported after a DUI conviction.

Criminal defense attorneys at times do "represent the indefensible." Our system of justice desperately requires us to not only accept the challenge but also to do it at a high level. Sometimes we balance the pain of all the parties involved. We are professionals and clients rely on our advice and how we handle their cases. Some clients are innocent, others are guilty, and others are somewhere in between. Nonetheless, the representation we provide can impact a client's ability to keep their job, stay out of prison, or go home and tuck their children into bed at night.



**Have a perspective you would like to share on your practice?**

Please contact  
**Diane Skouti**  
 dskouti@sjcl.edu  
 559/326-1463

AUG. 1983

Inaugural  
 Masters of  
 Taxation Program

AUG. 1984



Janice Pearson joins  
 SJCL as Associate  
 Dean and then was  
 promoted to Dean  
 the following year.

MARCH 1987



SJCL achieves  
 WASC candidacy  
 status making  
 Financial Aid  
 available to  
 SJCL students.

# October On-Campus Interviews

October was a busy month for students seeking internships, especially if they were interested in hands-on prosecutorial experience. Representatives from the Fresno, Madera, and Kings County District Attorney's Offices were on hand to interview prospects. Lang Richert & Patch also stopped by to meet those interested in summer civil law internships.



Kings County Assistant District Attorney **Phillip Esbenshade**



(L-R) Fresno County Senior Deputy District Attorney **Stacy Phillips**, Chief Deputy District Attorney **Gabriel Brickey** (Law '04), Assistant District Attorney **Traci Fritzler** (Law '97) and Deputy District Attorney **Kelsey Peterson**.



(L-R) Madera District Attorney **Sally Moreno** (Law '95) along with Assistant District Attorney **Jeff Dupras**



**Kimberly Mayhew** (Law '98) from Lang, Richert & Patch.

AUG. 1987

**DICTA**

Dicta reinstated by the Student Bar Association after a four-year absence. Student volunteers were sought to write articles.

SEPT. 1987

First SJCL Alumni Reunion. Over 200 alumni attended.

OCT. 1989

**Dicta**

Last Dicta is published by student volunteers.

AUG. 1990

Record enrollment of 110 first year students



# 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.

## A High Price for Freedom: Transforming Farm Owners' Employment Rights into Due Process Protection

BY ALI HUDA (LAW '19), STAFF MEMBER  
SAN JOAQUIN AGRICULTURAL LAW REVIEW

In 1975, California enacted the Agriculture Labor Relations Act ("ALRA") to protect the collective bargaining rights of agricultural farmworkers, largely as a compensable measure in connection with certain shortcomings of National Labor Relations Act. The ALRA enabled farmworkers to unionize and bargain collectively for better wages, hours, and benefits without fear of employer retaliation. But in the decades to follow, numerous elected unions and farm owners failed to execute and certify collective bargaining agreements and the contract formation process became indefinitely stalled.

To compel the creation of collective bargaining agreements, California amended the ALRA in 2002 to include the landmark Contract Dispute Resolution Act ("CDRA") provisions, creating a method to bargain even if a negotiation impasse threatened to stall the process. The CDRA provided bargaining parties at impasse could elect an arbitrator to resolve the dispute. This is the subject of

recent dispute in *Gerawan Farming, Inc. v. Agricultural Labor Relations Board* (2018) 139 S. Ct. 60, cert denied (U.S. Oct. 1, 2018) (No 17-1375).

*Gerawan Farms, Inc.* ("Gerawan") levied a substantive due process challenge against the CDRA provisions, particularly California Labor Code sections 1164 to 1164.13. After losing at the trial level, petitioner *Gerawan Farming, Inc.* appealed their case to the Fifth District Court of Appeal, which reversed the trial court's decision and held that the CDRA provisions violated of *Gerawan's* constitutional rights. *Gerawan Farming, Inc. v. ALRB* (2015)187 Cal.Rptr.3d 261, reversed by *Gerawan Farming, Inc. v. ALRB* (2017)3 Cal. 5th 1118. In reversing the Fifth District Court of Appeals and affirming the trial court decision, the California Supreme Court held that the CDRA provisions were constitutionally valid because no constitutional violation had occurred. Namely, the California Supreme Court held that no fundamental right of employer's freedom



This Comment, along with the entire 28th Volume and the previous 27 Volumes are available at [www.sjcl.edu/sjalr](http://www.sjcl.edu/sjalr).

of contract exists within the domain of labor relations. Although the United States Supreme Court denied *Gerawan's* petition for review on October 1, 2018, *Gerawan's* substantive due process challenge could upend modern labor laws if similar cases arise before the United States Supreme Court's case docket in the future. This article assesses whether an employer's "liberty of contract" fundamental right warrants protection under the Due Process Clause. If so, it is necessary to assess the extent to which protection of that fundamental right would invalidate pre-existing labor laws beyond the ALRA and restrict future union-centric labor legislation designed to protect farmworkers.

NOV. 1990

Class of '90 Grads achieve 88% Bar Pass Rate



DEC. 1990

First *Inter Alia* is published by the Faculty and Staff of SJCL.

APRIL 1991



SJCL celebrates 20th Anniversary – Cumulative passing rate over the 20 years is 90%.

MAY 1991



SJCL Co-founder Oliver Wanger is sworn in to Federal Bench

# Rememixer from page 1

other non-alumni judges who have served as SJCL professors also attended, including Hon. Stanley Boone, Hon. Jon Conklin, and Hon. Oliver Wanger, who is also one of the Law School's Founders.

Judge Wanger spoke to the crowd during a brief presentation, recalling the creation of the School, and how, in the early 80's, "Quite frankly, a miracle occurred, and that was Jan Pearson," he said. "She became a Dean after Judge Eymann, John Loomis, and I had all served as Deans. We didn't do a very good job, quite frankly, because we all had other occupations fulltime. Jan came in, and the miracle of this Law School is almost completely attributable to her."

Three decrees were also delivered during the short ceremony: a Proclamation from the City of Clovis, a Resolution from Fresno County, and another Resolution from the State Legislature. State Senator Andreas Borgeas is a "Scholar in Residence" at SJCL.

Four rooms at the Law School held pictures and memorabilia from the various classes, along with tables for those classes to drink, munch, reminisce and reconnect. Among the memorabilia were trophies won at moot court competitions, tassels from various years, an early computer the size of a medium microwave, a card catalogue from various years, an early computer the size of a medium microwave, a plastic cow (Is that you, Josephine?), Dicta and Inter Alia issues, a Nintendo game system from the 1980s, a hard hat, and a brick.

Party-goers mingled, hugged, and laughed as they recalled the trials and tears, both happy and sad. Many were



**Blake Zante**, Communications Director for the Office of Senator Andreas Borgeas, presents Dean **Jan Pearson** with a Proclamation from the State Legislature

taken aback by the way they looked in the sometimes decades-old photos, but the laughs were mostly directed to the hair and clothing.

Former Facilities Manager and Alumni Liaison Joan Lassley sent a note the morning after the party, proclaiming the party "Rocked it out of the park! Classy event, wonderful displays, great food and drink. The attention to detail with rooms was amazing (loved the jury box with shouts out to judges)."

Retired Assistant to the SJCL Chief Financial Officer Maureen Hayes also commented "All the displays & videos were great & well received." I even heard a current student comment "the spring banquets look like so much fun, not just music & dancing."

Other former SJCL employees who showed up to reminisce included former Receptionist Carlyn Robbins, former Human Resource Director Gwen Watt, former Director of Financial Aid Jeannie Lewis, and former Professors Sally Perring, Alicia Diaz Wrest (Law '10), and Richard Cartier, who lamented that he had missed Professor Larry Artenian's appearance and the possibility of rekindling their on-going fake feud.

Among the dozen SJCL Board Members in attendance were Ross Borba, Richard Caglia (Law '99), Deborah Coe (Law '91), Anthony Mendes, Jess Molina (Law '13), Doug Noll, Hon. Robert Oliver, Eddie Ruiz (Law '95), Dennis Veeh, David Weiland (Law '92), Melissa White (Law '96), and Faculty Liaison Professor Christine Goodrich.

AUG. 1991

FALL 1991

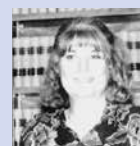
SEPT. 1991

**BY THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF FRESNO**  
WHEREAS, San Joaquin College of Law is celebrating its 20 Year Anniversary this year; and  
WHEREAS, San Joaquin College of Law continues to maintain a high standard of excellence in providing legal education to individuals in the Central Valley who otherwise might not have the opportunity to study law; and  
WHEREAS, it has always been a priority of the Law School to draw upon the vast expertise of local judges and attorneys to serve as our distinguished part of its adjunct faculty; and  
WHEREAS, San Joaquin College of Law has now graduated...

Fresno Mayor Karen Humphrey proclaims August 20, 1991 San Joaquin College of Law Day, due to achievement of 91% overall pass rate on the Bar Exam in the first 20 years.



First SJALR is launched by Dave Weiland (managing editor) and Marlene Hubbell (production editor)



Sally Perring appointed Associate Dean for Academic Affairs



**Hon. Gary Austin** (Law '76) points to his listing in the jury box



Dean **Jan Pearson** and **Eddie Ruiz** (Law '95 and Board Member) in front of the Class of 1995 "Hard Hat Party" display



**Gary Brunsvik** (Law '00) and wife **DeAnn**



Former Academic Dean **Sally Perring**, Fresno Superior Court Judge **Amy Guerra** (Law '07), and **Dede Agrava** (Law '07) share a moment



Alumni Association President **Kristina Garabedian** (Law '14) and **Brittany Hines** (Law '16)



**Peter Cowper** (Law '88) and Board Chair **Doug Noll**



**Raj Sungu** (Law '12)

JAN. 1992

SJCL students Patricia Williams and Marlene Hubbell sweep National Tax Law Moot Court Competition in Clearwater Beach, Florida (Best Overall Argument, Best Petitioner's Brief, Best Overall Brief and Best Overall Individual Oral Advocacy)



FEB. 1992

SJCL hosts National Agricultural Advocacy Competitions (NAAC)



FEB. 1993

SJCL team of David Rendahl, Deborah Garabedian, and Steven Blom win first place for Best Brief at National Environmental Advocacy Moot Court Competition



**Hon. Oliver Wanger** (Founder), **Hon. Jonathan Conklin**, **Hon. Stanley Boone**, and **Hon. Robert Oliver**



**Brande Gustafson** (Law '09), **Suzanne Golden** (Law '01), Professor **Larry Artenian**, and Dean **Jan Pearson**



**Josh Hernandez** (Law '18), Academic Dean **Justin Atkinson**, and **Travis Ishikawa** (Law '12)



**David Weiland** (Law '92) and Professor **Richard Cartier** (Ret.)



**Joslyn Hilberg** (2L) and **Landon Sciacca** (1L)



The Alumni Association took on the pouring post for wine. (L-R) **Hon. Ashley Allred** (Law '11), **Rose Petrosyan** (Law '99), and Professor **Stefanie Krause** (Law '00).

APRIL 1993



SJCL achieves Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation

FEB. 1995



SJCL Team of Jerry DeMelo and Sally Moreno-Orme win top two individual advocacy awards at Tulane University National Moot Court Sports Law Competition, New Orleans, LA.

FEB. 1997



SJCL moves to the renovated Clovis High building. Some 600 celebrate at the Open House party.



Staff Members **Joyce Morodomi**, **Jill Waller-Randles**, and **Lonzettta Hightower** engage in a pre-party pose.



**Joshua Hernandez** (Law '18), **Teju Olubeko** (Law '18), and **Raquel Busani** (Law '18)



The Jury Box was stuffed with the names of SJCL Alumni Bench Officers.



Dean **Jan Pearson** “helps” Tax Professor **Dave Camenson** in accepting his plaque for 25 years of service. He thanked “the U.S. Congress for adopting the Internal Revenue Code,” adding “Otherwise, I wouldn’t be here.”



**Michelle Oleksa** (Law '99), Professor **Larry Artenian**, and **Jen Oleksa** (Law '16).

SEPT. 1998



Capital Campaign provides funds for exterior painting and refurbishment of SJCL's new home (Old Clovis High).

OCT. 2000



SJCL Celebrates 30th Anniversary with All Class/Faculty Reunion. Number of Alumni: 1,287

NOV. 2000



SJCL student Deborah Boyett's *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* article is cited twice by the California Supreme Court.



Displays for each of the 50 years were spread throughout the facility



Tina Botts and Professors Christine Goodrich and John Malmo



Alicia Diaz Wrest (Law '10), Lori Bennett, and staff member Jill Waller Randles



Former staff Joan Lassley and Maureen Hayes



Deborah Coe (Law '91) and Leslie Dillahunty (Law '97).



NALC Director Linda Barreto (Law '14) and Board Member Anthony Mendes

JAN. 2001



Richard Lee (Law '85) is the first graduate appointed to Federal bench.

APRIL 2001



Moot Court team of Kim Raven, Dianna Setoodeh and Alex Peltzer win Best Brief at state wide Roger J. Traynor Moot Court Competition.

APRIL 2002



Moot Court team of Ed Johnson, Greg Norys and Lillian Weiland receive Best Overall Advocate team and Best Brief awards at state wide Traynor Moot Court Competition.



**Gretchen Freedman**, widow of Darryl Freedman (Law '93), namesake of future SLCL Law Library.



Staff members **Aracely Mota**, **Esmeralda Felix**, **Miriam Ochoa**, and **Susie Aguilar**



**Michael Holtermann**, **Susan Veeh**, Board Member **Dennis Veeh**, and Board Member **Melissa L. White** (Law '96)



Dean **Janice Pearson** putting the finishing touches on the displays.



**Dede Agrava** (Law '07) and **Courtney Caron** (Law '07)



Philharmonia Strings provided amazing ambiance

APRIL 2003

OCT. 2003

FEB. 2004



Moot Court team of Sherrie Flynn, Debra Sandoval, and Jason Taylor place in the top third in the Roger J. Traynor Moot Court Competition.



First Senior Citizen's Law Day at SJCL, a cooperative effort between the Alumni Association, SBA, and staff.



Chinese delegation of judges and senior staff visit select Calif. law schools, including SJCL, to gain understanding of U.S. Intellectual Property rights.

# Hopping into the Winners' Circle



(L-R) Professor **George Vasquez** (Law '13), Professor **James Mugridge** (Law '13), **Alexandra Macedo**, **Hon. Jeffrey Hamilton Jr.**, **Joslyn Hillberg**, **Justice Mark Snauffer**, **Heather Thomas**, **Hon. Jonathan Conklin**, **Abigail Unruh**, and **Nathan Martin**.

**H**alloween was just a week away, but a bunch of San Joaquin College of Law students were facing a much scarier situation, that of Hopper Moot Court. What made the argument more intense was the status of many of those judging the students' efforts, including eight sitting judges. In the end, though, there were many smiling faces.

Congratulations to our George A. Hopper Moot Court competition winners; Best Oral Advocate: Alexandra Macedo; Oral Advocate Finalists: Joslyn Hillberg, Heather Thomas, and Abigail Unruh; Best Brief: Armida Mendoza and Rosa Oregel-

Gonzalez; and Best Brief Finalists: Paul Armo & Nathan Martin.

SJCL would like to thank the many attorneys and judges who took part in the trial-skills-honing event; they sharpen our students' thinking and gave advice as to how to become even more powerful advocates. Those judges included Professor Robert Abrams (Law '08), Dede Agrava (Law '07), Professor Justin Atkinson, Professor Linda Barreto (Law '14), Melissa Barrios (Law '98), Hon. Stanley A. Boone, Deborah Boyett (Law '01), Hon. Jonathan Conklin, Brad Estes, Paul Fata, Professor Christine Goodrich, Hon. Erica Grosjean,

Hon. Jeffrey Hamilton, Jr., Professor Ray Horng, Rhea Ikemiya (Law '09), Kevin Kalajian (Law '08), Michael Kerr (Law '17), Professor Stefanie Krause (Law '00), Hon. Leanne LeMon, James Miller (Law '07), David Mugridge (Law '85), Professor Jennifer Oleksa (Law '16), Justice Rosendo Pena, Jr., Professor Jeffery G. Purvis, Joni Puzon, Andrew Redner, Hon. Geoff Sims (Law '93), Justice Mark Snauffer, Robert Stewart, Professor Logan Tennerelli, Vincente Tennerelli, Justin Vecchiarelli (Law '14), Sally Vecchiarelli (Law '15), Craig Waters (Law '16), Harry White, and Jody Winter (Law '06).

FEB. 2005

SJCL Moot Court Team places in top three at Traynor Moot Competition



JULY 2005

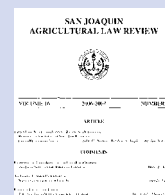
Dean Sally Perring participated in the Oxford Roundtable in Oxford, England



NOV. 2005

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy meets with SJCL students at the new Robert E Coyle Federal Courthouse

DEC. 2007



The SJALRV16 article "Farm Family Succession Planning..." receives Professional Scholarship award from American Agricultural Law Association



# “Let’s Impeach a President! It always worked before...”

**T**hat was the title of this year’s Constitution Day lecture at San Joaquin College of Law on September 19th. Professor Jeffrey G. Purvis examined what the Founding Fathers had in mind when they were considering which presidential behaviors merited impeachment, and how it was applied (or not applied) in impeachment proceedings against Presidents Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton. In both of those cases, it appears impeachment was driven (and ultimately diffused) by political forces, rather than a standard code of conduct. Professor Purvis suggested that the possible articles of impeachment facing the current president are much more severe, but partisan votes would rule the outcome.



More than 30 people attended the annual event. As is his habit, Professor Purvis welcomed several audience members by name, including his wife, fellow professors, an SJCL Board member, and the ghost of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

For those who missed this year’s lecture, it will be replayed on KFCF (88.1 FM) and CMAC in the near future. It will also be added to the SJCL You Tube Channel.

In the past, Professor Purvis’ topics have included:

“Don’t Vote! Let the rich people run America, as God and the Framers intended!”

“Death Panels Are Trying to Kill My Grandma”

“Virtual Mayhem: Why Does the US Supreme Court Want Our Children to Become Violent Killers?”

“Having Destroyed Marriage, What Are The Gays Up To Now?”

“Is It Constitutional for Me to Scream at Town Hall Meetings So That No One Else Can Be Heard?”

“Why Shouldn’t the President be a Dictator?--How to destroy the Constitution, subvert the rule of law, and end our freedom in one easy lesson.”

DEC. 2008

SJCL’s Hollis G. Best Senate (Delta Theta Phi) receives national honors for: Most Outstanding Professional Program Senate of the Year – Regional Winner Student of the Year – Regional Winner

SEPT. 2010



40th Anniversary Celebration

JAN. 2011



SJCL Co-Founder John Loomis is awarded the French Legion of Honor by the Consul General of France for his service as a WWII Veteran.

# 4th Annual Veterans to Law School

**T**hree SJCL graduates who attended law school after serving in the military shared their stories during a panel discussion at the 4th Annual Veterans to Law School event November 7th. For some, the practice of law is the perfect way to fulfill the desire to continue serving their communities. Studies show that many veterans experience a void of purpose upon returning to civilian life. Few professions can satisfy the need to serve like law.

Jeff Robinson (Law '16) detailed some of the many reasons that veterans are so well suited to careers in law. "In the military I learned you never say I can't," he said. Jeff says he found that this motto applies perfectly to law school, and the practice of law as well. The difference for a veteran in law school is that they don't have the inherent fear of the professors like most students do, he said. "I had a military drill Sargent who was scarier!" And the similarities just keep on coming. As Jeff noted, it's grit that is needed most in the military and law alike. "You have to be able to get up after having been knocked down, and go again."

Andrea Chapman (Law '17) agreed that military veterans are well suited for careers in law. "You need to get over wanting to be perfect," she said. "The effort you put into it is what you will get out of it."

Andrea first practiced criminal defense, but she found her passion in civil litigation. She says she loves her job because it's gratifying to fight for people who deserve it.

The third panelist, Jason Trupkin (Law '17), said becoming an attorney has filled



(L-R) **Lorenzo Rios**, Chief Executive Officer, Clovis Memorial District, Dean **Janice Pearson**, **Andrea Chapman** (Law '17), **Jeff Robinson** (Law '16), and **Jason Trupkin** (Law '17)



Staff member **Francisco "Javier" Rosas** explains the benefits of SJCL to a prospective student

that void and then some. "Being an attorney is the coolest experience. I get fired up in the morning. It doesn't feel like you are going to work every day," he said.

Jeff noted that he chose SJCL because it was close, had a good reputation and was more affordable than the bigger law

schools. He emphasized that the person who works hardest is the one who wins the case. "Attorneys from other law schools don't have super powers," he said. "It's not worth the extra money to go to one of the bigger law schools."

AUG. 2011



SJCL Co-Founder U.S. District Judge Oliver Wanger retires from the bench and returns to SJCL as an instructor.

AUG. 2011



SJCL's New American Legal Clinic (NALC) opens to provide law students with advanced training while serving legal immigrants to the U.S.

FEB. 2012



SJCL Moot Court Team places third at UC Davis Asylum & Refugee Law Competition

# Baker's Dozen Basks in Barpassers' Glow

**W**hen Heidi Falany received word on a Friday night that she had passed the bar, she immediately called family and friends to announce the word and celebrate.

On that same Friday night, Ivan Gomez was returning from a business trip in Las Vegas when the good news popped up on his phone. Ivan popped up as well, jumping to his feet in the airport and letting out a whoop. "People were looking at me," he says, adding he should have been embarrassed, but was too happy.

Many of the Barpassers came together the following Monday night, November 18th, for the traditional Champagne Reception in the Great Hallway at San Joaquin College of Law. They, too, were beyond happy.

All of those in attendance had job offers in hand. One admitted he doesn't think the work will change much from clerking, but is delighted the paycheck will. Morgan Day has an offer at Campagne & Campagne, Heidi Falany has been hired by Zeppy Attashian's Office, Ivan Gomez becomes an attorney for Stockwell Harris, Ryan Lopez will remain with the Paul Rodriguez Law Group, and Fabian Perez becomes an Associate at Perez, Williams, Medina & Rodriguez.

Shannon Wentworth is excited to become an attorney at the Law Office of David Mugridge. He is currently working on four murder trials, including a death penalty case. She says she appreciates how he respects her opinion and ideas so much



FRONT ROW (L-R) **Jodie Howard, Heidi Falany, and Shannon Wentworth**  
 BACK ROW (L-R) **Morgan Day, Ivan Gomez, Ryan Lopez, and Fabian Perez**  
 ALSO PASSING BUT NOT PICTURED: **Iqbal Bains, Claudia Case, Whitney Hendricks, Ivan Martinez, BreAnne Ruelas, and Shannon Wallen**

so that she doesn't feel like she is starting on the bottom rung of a new career.

Meanwhile, Barpasser Jodie Howard will continue her work as Director of the BREN Clinic at SJCL, but becoming an attorney will enable her to offer more services to individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in obtaining education services, community services,

and related support. The Clinic currently offers free classes to parents, educators, or other individuals trying to navigate the intricate system.

While the Champagne and hors d'oeuvres have been put away, the glow of the victory lingers. As Ivan Gomez put it, "This is something no one can ever take away from me."

APRIL 2013



SJCL hosts the Traynor Moot Court Competition and then beats Loyola to take the trophy for Best Oral Argument

JULY 2013



Academic Dean Sally Perring retires

JULY 2014



Justin Atkinson promoted to Academic Dean

# A City and its Law School: Models of Success



“The Clovis Way of Life” may pass through one ear and out the other as an annoying catchphrase you may have barely noticed or even ignored. Some have complained that it conveys a slight exclusionist vibe.



BY DIANE SKOUTI, ALUMNI LIAISON

I admit to each of these at one point or another, as catchphrases go. Until, that is, last fall. My SJCL colleague Beth Pitcock, Director of Human Resources & Compliance, and I were chosen (you have to apply) to take part in something called the Clovis Citizens Academy. Offered as an opportunity to learn about the inner workings behind this highly successful and thriving little city, Beth and I saw it as an opportunity to meet some of our neighbors. The law school is right next door to the Clovis Government Center,

the hub of city departments like the police department, the library, and the city council chambers, among others. We also thought it was a good opportunity share the news about the law school’s 50th Anniversary with said community members. Were we capitalizing on the chance to promote our beloved SJCL to some important people? Perhaps - at first - but it turned out to be much more than that.

Arranged a few times a year, the Citizens Academy consists of two workshops, each beginning with a dinner at the Government Center. On the first night we divided into smaller groups and boarded the adorable Old Town Trolley for an eye-opening tour of some of the many points of interest throughout Clovis.

Beth and I were delighted to find that the very first site on the tour was our own SJCL! As noted by our knowledgeable guide (Dwight Kroll, Director of Clovis Planning Development Services), not only is SJCL a highly successful institution of law, our building is a beloved landmark. The original Clovis High School was built 100 years ago, next year. With many generous donations from our alumni and friends, SJCL remodeled the building in

the late 1990’s, leaving much of its original integrity intact. Both the law school and our building are known (by those who know) as local gems - times two. We love our campus as much as those first Clovis High Schoolers did, and we’ve taken great pains to steward the building lovingly into the future. Beth and I couldn’t help but sit up straighter on our trolley bench as we admitted to our fellow tour-mates that we are part of the SJCL team!

Due in part, perhaps, to the joy of riding in the beautifully restored trolley, we saw the sights of Clovis through fresh and captivated eyes. The experts who helped plan and bring to life the beautiful residential, business and civic projects we passed described their vision for the city’s future, and the efforts being taken to preserve the essence of its past. We stopped a few times and got off the bus for a closer look. One stop was the police department. We were taken into the heart of the communications center (where all emergency and 911 calls are routed), got to meet the K9 unit (incredible dogs), saw a demonstration of the newest policing procedures with drones, and walked through the local jail. All fascinating stuff.

FEB. 2015

AUG. 2015

APRIL 2016



SJCL Moot Court team wins Best Brief at UC Davis Asylum & Refugee Law National Moot Court Competition, beating UC San Francisco and New York University Schools of Law.



The Honorable Richard Lee, first SJCL graduate to be appointed to the federal bench, retires. Dean Jan Pearson was at his law school graduation, his swearing in to the bench, and his retirement party.



SJCL, along with Fresno City College and Fresno State, join the Pathway to Law School Initiative



Participants of the Clovis Citizens Academy of Fall 2019 were offered an insiders view of all sorts of city workings, including what's behind all those doors on the firetruck!

On the second night, we heard from representatives of the fire department, the City Council, and the city manager and finance department on the workings and goals of their departments. It was evident that each of the speakers shared a sincere love for their jobs and pride in Clovis' development through the years.

The phrase "The Clovis Way of Life" began to take on real meaning. It's about doing things well, in the best interest of those served, always with an eye toward the future. Sincere intent and a commitment to service have been the city's cornerstones since its incorporation in 1912, when the first buildings sprung up around the Clovis railroad station.

It was noted that the Citizens Academy was also meant to seek out knowledgeable ambassadors (there was hope, the speakers said, that our group included potential future city council members!) in order to help perpetuate continuity into the future. The accolades for Clovis are many: safest city in the Central Valley, successful school system, job growth, thriving downtown, booming housing industry, state of the art water, sewer, and infrastructure, quality amenities for senior citizens, verdant parks and trails, and the list goes on.

The joy of job shined from every city employee we met. We couldn't help but note the similarities between these professionals, and those who maintain the quality of the legal education provided at SJCL.

For our part, there is no doubt that SJCL contributes to what makes Clovis special. Pride of accomplishment has been on full display throughout SJCL's 50 years of instruction. Many of the attorneys and judges who serve the Valley are among our 1,600 graduates, as is Clovis Councilmember Vong Mouanoutoua, from SJCL's class of 2002.

Upon completion of the Citizens Academy, it was apparent to Beth and I that both Clovis and SJCL alike serve as models of the sincerest forms of leadership and success.

For more information about the Clovis Citizens Academy go to [cityofclovis.com](http://cityofclovis.com)



NOV. 2018



50th SJCL graduate elevated to the bench

SEPT. 2019

SJCL opens Special Education BREN Clinic



JAN. 2019

Darryl Freedman (Law '93) makes one million dollar donation to help with acquisition and renovation of new law library

OCT. 2019



SJCL celebrates 50th Anniversary

# SJCL ON THE MOVE



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

**Marco A. Aguiar III** (Law '18) is now a criminal defense attorney at the Fresno County Public Defender's Office.

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

**Linda K. Barreto** (Law '14), the Director of the SJCL New Americans Legal Clinic, has been chosen as one of this year's "40 Under 40" classmates and will be honored with a reception. According to Business Street Online, "The '40 Under 40' reception recognizes outstanding business professionals in the private and public sectors of central California who have yet to reach the age of 40. They have demonstrated a strong work ethic, and are the leaders of today as well as tomorrow. Each year, Business Street Online holds a networking reception, which the public can attend, to celebrate the

accomplishments and hard work of these young rising stars." This year's reception is slated for December 5th from 6-9 p.m. at Chukchansi Park.

**Trisha L. Beckstead** (Law '02) is now the Research Attorney for the Writs of Habeas Corpus at the Fresno County Superior Court.

**Catarina M. Benitez** (Law '06) is now a Partner at Lawvex, LLP.

**William L. Chaddock** (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney in the Fresno Offices of Colantoni Collins Marren Phillips & Tulk.

**Brandon M. Hinton** (Law '16) is now a Fresno County Deputy District Attorney.

**Samuel D. Kylo** (Law '97) is now the Modoc County District Attorney. He becomes the ninth SJCL alumni to become a District Attorney.

**Vincente Reyes** (Law '13) is now a Kings County Deputy District Attorney.

**Tomas J. Ross** (Law '13) has been promoted to Counsel at the Law Office of Raquel Birch, Staff Counsel for Allstate, Encompass and Esurance.

**BreAnne R. Ruelas** (Law '18) is now an Associate Attorney in the Law Office of David A. Torres in Bakersfield.

**Justin N. Vecchiarelli** (Law '14) and Sally S. Vecchiarelli (Law '15), partners in the law firm Proper Defense Law Corporation, have opened a new office in Beverly Hills to better serve their clients in that area.

**Shannon M. Wallen** (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney at the Dias Law Firm.

## *In Memoriam*

*San Joaquin College of Law notes with sadness the passing of*

**David A. DiChiara** (Law '02) on January 10, 2019.

**Colin J. Kooyumjian** (Law '94) on October 9, 2019. Colin is survived by his three children, Lauren, Victoria and Cloe; his mother Doris, his sister Dawn, and his grandson Hayden.

# Thank you for your support! August 1, 2019 – November 30, 2019

*San Joaquin College of Law thanks the following individuals and organizations for their gifts. Their generosity helps SJCL deliver an outstanding academic program to students.*

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## **\$5,000 - \$9,999** Charles W. Palmer Family Foundation Charles Palmer ('13) C. William Brewer ('76)

## **Gifts of \$2,500 - \$4,999** Lisa Smittcamp (Board & '95)

## **Gifts of \$1,000 - \$2,499** Michael Condry ('80) Dias Law Firm, Inc. Michael ('93) & Germaine Dias Hon. Efren Iglesia ('76) Carlyn Robbins

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Eduardo Ruiz ('95)  
SJCL Alumni Association  
Kimberly Sweidy ('85)  
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You deserve to be properly recognized for your contributions, and we strive for 100 percent accuracy. If we have made an error, please contact Lonzetta Hightower at 559/323-2100 or lhightower@sjcl.edu.



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