



# DBCTA

Published by the Student Bar Association, San Joaquin College of Law  
Ellen M. Jahn, Editor  
Volume A, Issue 2

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November, 1987

## BAR PASS RATE: HOW DOES SJCL COMPARE?

Passing "THE BAR" - the reason we are all here at SJCL - is a condition precedent for receipt of one's license to practice law. (Of course, you already knew that!) I have it from several very reliable sources that THE BAR is a very tough test. Bar pass rates generate a great deal of interest in the legal community, from law school administrators, alumni and other attorneys, to law students. We're all deeply aware of the fact that those percentages reflect human beings who have invested three or four years of their lives, a lot of money and more, to obtain that license. Law students share the jubilation of friends who passed and the agony of those who did not. Law students also experience a feeling of dread. Every set of Bar pass rates puts us much closer to being the object of the next set of percentages by taking the Bar ourselves. This is the first in a series of articles about the Bar and Bar pass rates.

Ranking schools by their Bar pass rates is one way of evaluating the quality of education provided by a school. The "Bar pass rate" is the percentage of law school graduates who take and pass that bar exam. This includes all who take the exam, whether it is their first or subsequent attempt. The percentage pass rates are influenced by factors such as difficulty. However, one advantage of looking at a school's ranking is that variables in the test are irrelevant. A more difficult test is harder for all takers. This chart shows how SJCL compare with pass rates for other state-accredited law schools for the years 1980-1986:

SJCL Ranking  
State Accredited Schools  
July Bar Exams

	<u>overall</u>		<u>first-timers</u>	
	(rank)	(%)	(rank)	(%)
'80	#1	70.8	#2	73.9
'81	#1	57.1	#2	66.7
'82	#2	59.1	#1	68.4
'83	#2	50.0	#1	72.7
'84	#10	23.8	#11	26.3
'85	#5	39.0	#7	46.4
'86	#8	36.8	#5	44.0

SJCL's cumulative overall pass rate for 1980-1986 is 76%. Compare the McGeorge pass rate during this period, which was approximately 80%. Out of 255 graduates of SJCL, 216 have passed the BAR.

(Thanks to Annette Leifer, Dean of Administration, for providing the statistics for this article.)

-Tamera Trindade

## ABE LINCOLN HAD IT EASY!

Abraham Lincoln is the most famous law student since the signing of our Constitution 200 years ago.

As I sit here in air conditioned comfort at San Joaquin College of Law and recall the stories about old Abe studying by the firelight I have to ask: Did he really suffer?

No one ever mentions Abe studying all day long on Saturdays and Sundays. No history books indicate that he ever had his nose buried in a torts text during his lunch hour.

Evidently Abe got all his studying done by kicking back by the fireplace during his leisure hours after dinner. It couldn't have been too time consuming back then . . . there just wasn't that much law yet!

Imagine how much simpler our 1980's studies would be if we could just change a few historical events since Lincoln's time - - if only Mrs. Palsgraf had driven her own car to work instead of taking the Long Island Railroad - if Harry Tompkins hadn't taken the short-cut down the Erie Railroad tracks - if Ernesto Miranda had been able to run a little faster - if the stock market hadn't crashed in 1929 . . . There wouldn't be a Securities and Exchange Commission or the entire second semester of corporations.

Every day a fresh stack of complaints is filed in each courthouse in America and the courts continue to sift through and fashion more new laws to learn. We can't change history, but I still wonder . . . what if the Mayflower had sunk?!!

-Pete Cowper

## THE CLASS OF 1992

This year's entering class has, perhaps the greatest geographic and undergraduate educational diversity of any freshman group in recent memory. There are 53 entering first-year students. Of this total, 25 are female (47.2%) and 28 are male (52.8%). Four members of the class entered with an advanced degree, 39 hold a bachelor degree, and 8 hold an associate degree. Although 20 attended CSUF, 14 other institutions are represented including the University of California at Berkeley, the University of San Francisco, the University of New Mexico, Doane College, Willamette College, the University of Puget Sound, the Naval Postgraduate School, and Columbia University.

Geographic distribution is similarly diverse. 34 reside in Fresno and 5 in Clovis. The remainder are spread from as far south as Porterville, Visalia, Lemoore, and Hanford to the northernmost sectors of Madera. In between are fairly represented the cities of Sanger, Dinuba, Reedley, Kingsburg, Lemoore, and Selma.

Likewise, this group's occupational histories are eclectic. There are professional musicians Mary Goza and Bob Smally, former Alaskan bush pilot Terry Hilbloom, author Jeff Levinson, management-labor consultant Mark Roberts, sports broadcaster Mike Bryant, career military officer Jack McCaulley, and professional entertainer and clown (Sherri Rich Mount).

Mark Roberts was the former Regional (Southern California) Director for the ALRB. In 1980 he organized a consulting service representing agricultural employers in labor relations disputes. With corporate offices in Parlier, Bakersfield, Chowchilla, and Yuma, Roberts logs 500-600 hours per year in a Bonanza 837. He started law school with a "keen interest" in criminal law and an equally keen desire for a career change.

Since the age of five, Mary Goza has played keyboards, most recently with a local band called Radio London, and as classical accompanist on staff with CSUF. Although the band broke up two years ago, its members, including Mary, recently rejoined for a concert in Fresno. Mary has a special bachelor degree in music

therapy (CSUF), and for the past year worked in Phoenix as a musical instrument sales representative for Sherman Clay. Her great grandfather was Chief Justice of the Montana State Supreme Court; her Grandfather was the Montana State Attorney. Both discouraged her from entering the law. She entered San Joaquin looking for (and finding) stimulation and challenge, plus the perfect compliment to her avid lust for golf.

Born a "Sierra Club environmental zealot," Sherri Rich Mount recently met a "raper of the environment" and immediately married him. Sherri was then a member of the Sierra Club's Conservation Committee; her now, new husband, Robert, is Chief of the State's Engineering Division for the Kings River area. Both were working opposite sides of the controversial Dinky Hydroelectric project when introduced by a mutual friend. Sherri missed her first week of law school to bear the couple's first child, and by the fourth week started having fun again. As a professional entertainer and clown, Sherri organized and operated "(Not Just) Clowing Around." She played engagements throughout the Fresno area for three years before becoming Community Educator and Public Relations Representative for PRN Home Health.

Each of these people entered San Joaquin College of Law for reasons personal and professional. All three are impressed with both the caliber of instruction and the study requirements. None expressed any misgiving about choosing to enter law school, despite its inescapable demands. California will be hearing more from the class of 1992.

-Bob Hurlbett

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## LAW SCHOOL LAUGHS

Many of us have heard Dean Pearson advise not to "park your common sense outside the door" when studying the law. Similarly, a healthy sense of humor can be an asset on your law school balance sheet. Two books are recommended to illustrate the comedy known as law school.

Not the Official Lawyer's Handbook by Kevin P. Ward (1984, Signet), examines the study of law from LSAT to getting a job. The lighter side of finding a study group, becoming acquainted with the Socratic method, and passing the bar exam are featured. Ward's review of first year classes, an amusing combination of real law and absurd fact patterns, is well worth the price of the book. The Statute of Frauds, he notes, should be distinguished from the statue of frauds, depicting Nixon, Kissinger and Erlichman at work. The parodies and drawings inspire a look at "the other side" of law school, faculty and classmates.

Twenty-Nine Reasons Not to Go to Law School by Warner/Ihara (1982, Nolo Press) is of the same genre. This book gets down to the actual nitty-gritty of day-to-day law studies. Featured throughout the book are sketchy, line drawings which often show "before" and "after" views of students. The twenty-nine "reasons" are divided into categories such as other students, weekends, creeping lawyer-think and the bar exam. The Great God Gobbledygook", spouting legalese and jargon, never fails to note "the longer the words, the higher the fee . . ." In a humorous way, 29 Reasons points out some of the dilemmas of conscience lawyers and law students face.

When you tire of hornbooks, codes and cases, take a break with humor to renew your spirits.

-Ellen Jahn

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## REGISTRATION FOR SPRING SEMESTER

Due to New Year's Day falling on a Friday, registration for the Spring 1988 semester will be the first day of classes Monday, January 4, 1988. Students may register by mail prior to Jan. 4, 1988. Registration packets will be placed in student mailboxes during the first week of December.

Students seeking a tuition deferment must register with the Accounting Coordinator, Jill Seible, by appointment only on Friday, December 18, 1987.

Administrative offices will be closed November 26 and 27 for Thanksgiving, December 24-27 for Christmas, and December 31-January 3 for New Year's.

The law library will also be closed on these days. The law library will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. all other days of Christmas vacation, except Sunday, January 3, 1988 when the hours will be 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Janice Pearson

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Mary Lane, Fourth Year, who attended the National Delta Theta Phi convention this summer and won an oral advocacy award!

THE HOPPER MOOT COURT TOURNAMENT will be November 21, 1987 at the Fresno County Courthouse beginning at 9:00 a.m. All students, faculty and friends are welcome to attend. Lunch and a reception following the final round will take place at the Athenian Restaurant.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Student Bar Assoc.: Nov. 9 , Dec. 7,  
5:30 p.m.

Delta Theta Phi: Nov. 16, Dec. 21,  
5:30 p.m.

Moot Court Board: Nov 3, 5:30 p.m.

WANTED: ANNOUNCEMENTS! Please advise the DICTA of upcoming events or other activities which could be noted in print!

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## LEXIS TEMPORARY LEARNING CENTER

Seven Lexis Terminals will be installed in Room 201 during the month of November. Lexis will be conducting beginner and intermediate classes available to all students during the week of November 2, 1987. During the balance of the month, the terminals will be available for academic - related play during regular office hours except when Lexis is conducting local training for the private bar. Please contact Diane Johnson to sign up for the training sessions.

-Janice Pearson

## LISA BIHN JOINS SJCL STAFF

On October 12, 1987, Lisa Bihn commenced her employment as the Public Information Officer at SJCL. Ms. Bihn graduated from Fresno State with a degree in Journalism/Public Relations. She was previously employed in the Fresno State Public Information Office as a staff writer and Assistant to the Editor.

At SJCL, Ms. Bihn's duties will include student recruiting and publication of the school catalog. To promote SJCL, she will attend a career day at FSU on November 11, 1987 and the Chicanos in Law conference. Presently, Ms. Bihn is involved in updating the law school catalog.

While at Fresno State, Ms. Bihn was a member of the womens' basketball team. She enjoys water skiing, jogging and going to movies. Her first impression of SJCL was "friendly." Ms. Bihn plans to attend some law classes to meet students, faculty and get to know the school program.

-Ellen Jahn

## SJCL ALUMNI REUNION

Friday, September 25, 1987, was the first (and hopefully annual) SJCL Alumni Reunion. All graduating classes were represented, with over 200 alumni and guests in attendance. John Loomis gave welcome from the founders of the school. Doug Haas, Vice President of the Alumni Association, also welcomed everyone.

The "Fun (not fund) Raising Event" included a display of class pictures, and old copies of the Dicta. Equinox provided music for dancing and background for the catered dinner.

The school hopes this will become an annual event, so current students have something to look forward to!

-Tamera Trindade

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