

Inter Alia

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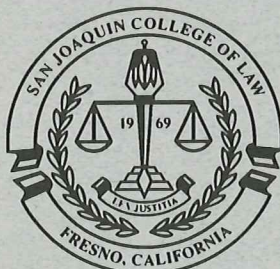
*The Newsletter of
San Joaquin
College of Law*

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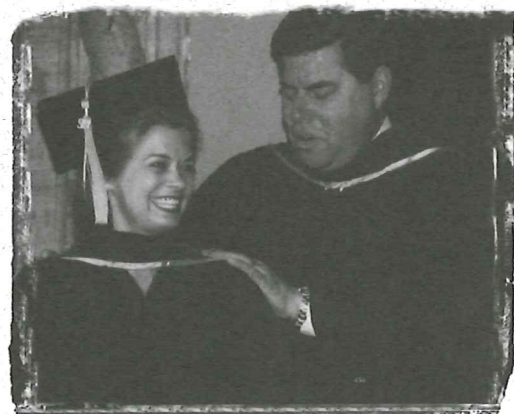
Congratulations!

Forty-four law students received their Juris Doctor degree at San Joaquin College of Law's Twenty-Fifth Graduation Ceremony on May 29, 1999 at the Warnors Theater in Fresno. Suzanne McGuire delivered the Valedictorian Address. The students graduating at the top of their class with high honors were Michelle Oleksa and Suzanne McGuire. Zipporah Underhill, Kathleen McGurty, Clark Haman, and Fred Meine all graduated with distinction.

CLASS OF 1999

Raymond Allen
Rick Banks
Kristy Burns
Richard Caglia
Robert Cassio
Kevin Cook
Kirsten Corey
Brian Cuttone
Eric Escamilla
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Jennifer Morrison
Suzanne McGuire
Kathleen McGurty
Sandra McIntyre
Michelle Oleksa
Dana Owens
Varduhi Petrosyan
Jacob Rivas
Paul Rodriguez, Jr.
Ravinder Sethi
David Siler
Janice Smith
Sandra Smith
Tiffany Smith-Henson
Jason Sorensen
Bradley Stevens
Jim Trevino
Zipporah Underhill
Kathy Wallace



Class Valedictorian, Suzanne McGuire,
with Presiding Justice, James Ardaiz.

SJCL's Librarian goes to Washington

Kathryn McTigue-Floyd is going to attend the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Conference in Washington DC, July 17 - July 22. During her time there, she will sit in on many informational seminars covering topics like: the potential impact of information on-line, collection development in the electronic age, preservation techniques, government printing office reform and the depository library program and training students in the use of on-line resources.

In addition, Kathryn will tour a number of libraries for government offices and law schools in the Washington DC area, including the library of the U.S. Supreme Court. This conference will provide the opportunity to meet with legal publishers and library suppliers to see what new products and publications are available and should be expected in the next year. Possibly the most important reason to attend the conference is the opportunity to network with librarians from law libraries across the country.

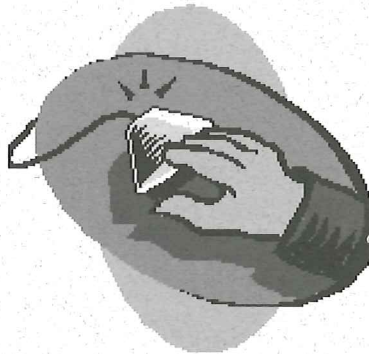


Kathryn McTigue-Floyd,
SJCL Librarian

Moving Into The New MILLENIUM

Have you seen the new San Joaquin College of Law web site??? If not or if it has just been a while, please visit us at www.sjcl.org and let us know what you think. The "Student Lounge" has been completed and offers course syllabi information, downloadable, old tests, student organization information, job listings and a bulletin board for posting ideas, questions, etc.

An "Alumni Lounge" is also in the works that will offer alumni association information and MCLE information. We would also like to have a complete "yellow pages" of our alums, listed by type of practice so that referrals can be made. In order to accomplish this, however, we need all alumni to fill out the form on the back of this newsletter, including your legal



specialities. If you are always on the net, you are welcome to email the information to jcanalin@sjcl.org.

If you have ideas of how we can make sjcl.org a more user friendly or useful web site, please email us at jcanalin@sjcl.org. Thank you for your input! :)

San Joaquin College of Law

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Law Alumni Profiles

Throughout 1999, *Inter Alia*, will highlight the lives of the 1979 and 1989 SJCL graduates.

FRAN CHRISTIANSEN CLASS OF 1979

Fran continued to work with the labor law firm of Bennett, Ostroff, & Capozzi after passing the bar and then joined the staff at the Fifth District Court of Appeal in February 1980 when the legislature authorized two new justices for the court. Since then, she has worked in every division of the court - central staff, By-the Court attorney, writ attorney, and senior attorney with several of the justices. In August of 1996, she left the Court to teach part-time in the Criminology Department at California State University, Fresno. In January 1999, Fran returned to the Fifth District and joined the staff of Justice Nickolas Dibiaso.

Fran and her husband, Jim, love to travel and make frequent trips to Santa Barbara where Jim's daughter, Lorraine, is a junior studying communications at the UCSB. Fran also enjoys reading and music. She and Jim are season-ticket holders with the Fresno Philharmonic, the Keyboard Concert series and Orpheus, and enjoy the Bear Valley Music Festival during the summer. Fran attends quarterly meetings in San Francisco of the Jane Austen Society of North America. "We discuss Austen's books, other authors of that period and the characteristics of the Regency period in general. I appreciate her novels - all of the sentences have verbs and generally make sense - unlike some of the transcripts I read at the court!"

Fran's best memories of law school are of her classmates, many of whom have become lifelong friends. She is proud of their success in the legal

profession and of the positive contribution they have made to the Fresno community.

JOHN MESROBIAN CLASS OF 1979

During his first year of law school, John founded Loss Protection and Investigations, Inc., which has grown dramatically over the last 20 years. LPI offers security consulting and investigation services. The work ranges from document analysis to covert videotaping. The confidential document destruction side of the business disposes of 120-200 tons of material a month. John has been designated a Certified Protection Professional by the American Society for Industrial Security and a Certified Fraud Examiner by the Association of Fraud Examiners. He has been actively involved over the years in Fresno Rotary, American Society for Industrial Security, and the Institute for Internal Auditors.

Four years ago, John and his family took the dive into farming, planting a table grape vineyard. This is the first year in total production. Farming has become John's diversion. He also enjoys attending grape growing seminars and work-related equipment conventions. He believes there is always so much more to learn.

John and his wife, Barbara, have three "neat" kids. The oldest just completed his second year in Industrial Engineering at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and is employed in a summer internship for Intel in Oregon. The two youngest, at 9 and 10, are just enjoying

being kids.

Law school was an ordeal for John, working full-time and getting the business started. He wasn't able to devote the time to it or enjoy it as much as he would have liked. This does not, however, seem to have slowed him down.

HON. JAMES PETRUCELLI CLASS OF 1989

During law school, Jim had clerked for Judy Soley. Upon graduation, he continued as an associate with her doing family law and personal injury work. In 1993, Jim opened his own practice doing exclusively family law. In that practice, he employed several SJCL students and paralegals. In June of 1998, Jim was elected to the Municipal Court in Kerman. Because the Fresno courts were swamped and unification was also adopted in that June election, Jim was sworn in as a Commissioner in Fresno in August of 1998. On January 4, 1999, he was sworn in as a Fresno County Superior Court Judge where his current assignment includes civil law and motion, unlawful detainers, preliminary hearings, felony sentencing, and small claims appeals.

Jim has been active in the Fresno County Bar Association. He has served on the Board, as Treasurer, and was President Elect when he had to resign to join the bench. Jim also served on the Executive Committee of the State Bar Law Practice Management and Technology Section. From 1990 until his election, Jim served on the North Central Fire Protection District Board. He was Chair at the time of his

THE STATE BAR RESULTS ARE IN . . . SJCL GRADS ARE CELEBRATING

San Joaquin College of Law is pleased to announce that 44.4% percent of all SJCL takers passed the February, 1999, California State Bar exam, which is considered to be the most difficult bar examination in the country. The state overall pass rate was 41.1 percent. In addition, the first time takers pass rate for SJCL takers was 100 percent compared to a 42.2 percent pass rate for similarly accredited schools. The repeat takers pass rate for SJCL students was 42.3 compared to 20.3 percent pass rate for similarly accredited schools.

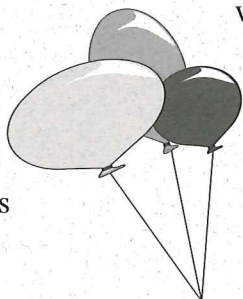
YOU DID IT!

Kerri Couillard
Brian Cuttone
Brian Duncan
Marissa Facciani
Keith Fagundes
Scot Ginther
Cathy Hicks
Jeff Mendoza
Dave Moeck
Bill Parry
Delilah Schuller
Nick Schuller.

THANK YOU . . .

After months of planning and fund-raising, the San Joaquin College of Law Painting Campaign has been completed. Thanks to the support of many of the Clovis Union High School alumni, our historical building now has a fresh coat of paint and has been restored to its original beauty. There are many people to thank for their generosity and support. To celebrate this occasion SJCL is hosting a wine and cheese social on Friday, July 30th.

At this "thank you" social, the Painting Campaign Plaque will be unveiled, recognizing those people who were so thoughtful and generous. SJCL will also like to thank Joan Lassley, the Painting Campaign Coordinator and CHS alumna who has worked so tirelessly for this wonderful building as well as the many CHS volunteers that have helped her in this endeavor.



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LONZETTA HIGHTOWER
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RICK RODRIGUEZ
Maintenance Supervisor

ARON LOPEZ
Bookstore Manager

resignation. Jim also proudly serves on the Board of Exceptional Parents Unlimited.

Jim is married to Toby, a mortgage loan officer. Jim's son is the manager of a local Target Store. Jim now has his first grandchild, a boy, born May 30 of this year. Jim and Toby love to travel. Every year, they go to the Pro Bowl in Hawaii. They also have a home in Monterey they visit frequently.

Jim remembers law school as a lot of work. He loves telling John Hayes and Jan Pearson stories. He remembers Michael Goldring teaching him "how to think gray."

CHARLES MAGILL CLASS OF 1989

Chuck worked as an associate with Smurr, Henry & Gelegan, then opened a sole practice focusing almost exclusively on criminal law. The high points of that practice for Chuck have been representing clients who were profoundly innocent and being able to prove it. He is discouraged by recent changes in the direction of criminal law, emphasizing incarceration even for less violent crimes and ignoring rehabilitation, as well as the continuing loss of individual civil rights.

Chuck has joint custody of his two boys, who are 6 and 12. Chuck describes them as the joy of his life. He spends endless hours with them at soccer and baseball games.

Chuck remembers law school as a trying and difficult time, but time well spent. In fact, he even misses the intellectual challenge.

WOODROW NICHOLS CLASS OF 1989

Upon graduating from law school, Woody worked for 20 months as a Research Clerk at the Federal District Court, assisting the Honorable Judge Myron Crocker. He then worked for

two years with Nuttall & Berman doing personal injury and criminal law cases. In August 1993, Woody opened his own office, emphasizing criminal trials, particularly Three Strikes cases. He served for eight years on the Fresno County Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board.

Woody has raised his two daughters. The oldest is a student at Cabrillo College in Santa Cruz. The younger is a senior in high school who enjoys playing the piano and tennis. For fun Woody says he "tries to stay out of trouble."

Ollie Wanger's stories about being a lawyer are Woody's best memories of law school. He also remembers that his class had the highest first time Bar pass rate in the history of the school (95.2%).

ELIZABETH PARKER CLASS OF 1989

Elizabeth's first legal employment was with the California Department of Social Services-Community Care Licensing Division. She worked there for 1 1/2 years as a license revocation attorney. Thereafter, she worked for a number of years in the Workers' Compensation area for State Fund Compensation Insurance. In December 1997 she became an Administrative Law Judge for the Department of Social Services-State Hearings Division. Elizabeth hears nearly 300 cases a year in a wide array of fields, including MediCal, DentiCal, Cal Works, and Welfare to Work.

Elizabeth's daughter just completed her B.A. in History and is living in San Francisco. The Himalayan cat, Alex, remains at home with Elizabeth. Elizabeth loves to walk and spend time with her father and daughter. She is also active in the National Women's Political Caucus.

Elizabeth remembers climbing over the wall at the Shields building to go

for coffee and doughnuts on class breaks. She has very positive memories of law school. She says her classmates, her classes, and her teachers were all super.

CYNTHIA SCULLY CLASS OF 1989

Cynthia worked for what was then Klein, Wegis & DeNatali doing business litigation for almost four years. In September 1992, she joined Jim Patison representing Chapter 11 debtors. Then she went to work for Dessy & Dessy for five years doing civil litigation, real estate, and creditor representation in bankruptcies. In March 1999, Cindy opened her own practice in Bakersfield emphasizing civil litigation, real estate, and bankruptcy litigation.

Cindy's husband, Jim, has worked in the car business for 18 years. Their son, Jim, performed his own musical compositions in his Senior recital in April and was married in May. Cindy and her husband spend time attending his recitals and traveling, particularly to visit her twin sister in the Reno-Tahoe area. And Cindy has never lost her voracious appetite for reading.

Cindy has taught a number of courses for the California Apartment Owners' Association in Fresno and Bakersfield. She has participated in radio call-in shows about landlord-tenant law in Bakersfield.

Cindy feels she got an awfully good education at SJCL. She remembers that everyone knew her by name and made her feel special, which is not a great surprise, considering she commuted from Bakersfield every day to attend law school. Everyone always tried to make that less of an ordeal. She particularly remembers Justice Ardaiz and his wonderful Evidence class.

**WE WOULD LOVE TO
HEAR FROM YOU**

PLEASE E-MAIL US AT
jcanalin@sjcl.org
TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS, ETC.

1999 George A. Hopper MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The annual George A. Hopper Moot Court competition, sponsored by San Joaquin College of Law was held July 8-10th at the law school campus. After months of preparation, nineteen teams of two students each prepared briefs on the same court case (this year's case was civil and dealt with Section 1983) and defended them orally during the three-day event. The Moot Court course was taught by professors Jonathan Conklin and Stanley Boone and the competition was critiqued by 48 judges and practicing attorneys from the Central Valley.

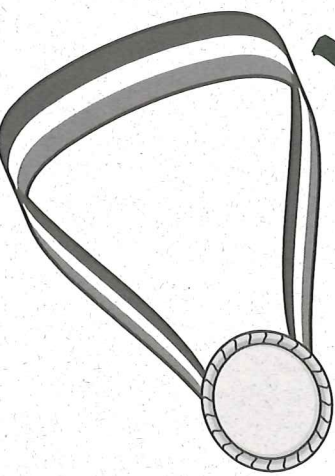
The 20-year old competition is named after the late Honorable George A. Hopper of the Fifth District Court of Appeals. Hopper, who died in 1981, was well-known and respected not only for his judicial knowledge, but also for his mentoring of newly-admitted attorneys.



Back Row L-R: Stanley Boone, Deborah Boyette, Shelli Pepper, Gerald Schwab, Tim Goodger, Jonathan Conklin

Front Row L-R: Hon. Anthony Ishii, Hon. Steven Vartabedian, Professor Jeffrey G. Purvis

WINNERS



Back Row L-R: Professor Jeffrey G. Purvis, Stanley Boone, Tad Taylor, Joan Lassley, Tim Goodger, Jonathan Conklin, Hon. Steven Vartabedian

Front Row L-R: Shelli Pepper, Ruth McNay-Holt, Julie Wittwer, Gerald Schwab, Deborah Boyett

Best Oral Advocate:	Shelli Pepper
Best Oral Advocate	Deborah Boyett
<i>Finalists:</i>	Tim Goodger Gerald Schwab
Best Oral Advocate	Tara Phelps
<i>Semi-Finalists:</i>	Julie Wittwer Grace Harrison Tad Taylor
Best Brief:	Ruth McNay-Holt <i>and</i> Shelli Pepper
Best Brief <i>Finalists:</i>	Deborah Boyett/Rusty Miller Alex Peltzer/Ken Jorgensen Sean McLeod/Lorraine Goodwin

ALUMNI UPDATE

Art Baggett (Law '93) was recently appointed to the State Water Resources Control Board for California by Governor Pete Davis. His work will begin in the midst of the board's crucial hearings on the Calfed Bay-Delta program, an effort to balance water supplies statewide for farming, environment, cities and industries. The board's decisions will address water rights for decades. Art lives in Mariposa County and is Central California's first State Water Resources Control Board member in six years.

Brian Haddix (Law '95) was just appointed the Deputy Director of the California Environmental Protection Agency.

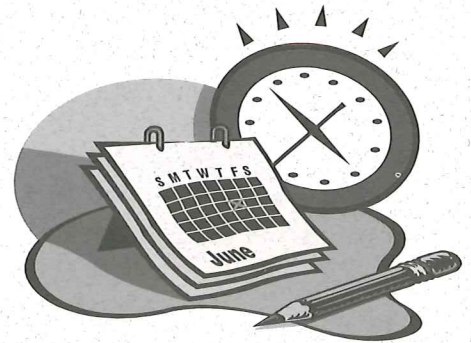
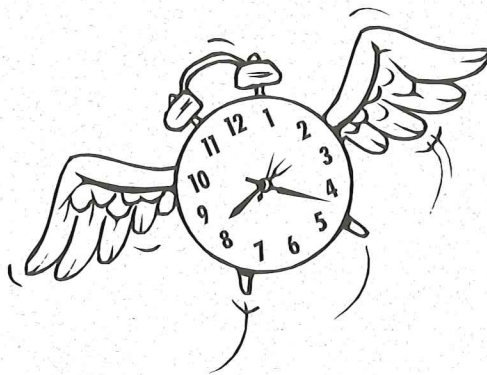
Toni Porter (Tax '92) was recently promoted to partner at Baker Peterson and Franklin, LLP. She and her husband Vern live in Fresno and have three children, Linda, Tom and Jennifer.

Joan Jacobs Levie (Law '95) is practicing law in Fresno specializing in torts, criminal defense, and appeals. She recently successfully argued at the 9th Circuit Court on behalf of an alien who was found in the U.S. after previously being deported. Her efforts resulted in reversal of the second count for aggravated felony and remand for new sentencing pursuant to *Almendarez-Torres vs. United States*; 523 U.S. 224 (1998). Joan is married to Juda and they have a son Jeremy who is engaged to Meg Jeffrey. Both Jeremy and Meg are ordained as Zen Buddhist priests in Marin County.

Jay Felkins (Law '98) is working in Fresno for the firm of Motschieder, Michaelides & Wishon, LLP. Jay and his wife, Jackie, have one daughter, Joelle.

David J. Weiland (Law '92) continues to work for the law firm of Dowling, Aaron & Keeler, Inc. and recently became a shareholder of that firm. David and his wife, Lillian, live in Fresno.

Debbie Dodd (Paralegal '88) is working for the firm of Sagaser, Franson, Jamison and Jones in Fresno. Debbie and her bank manager husband, Gary, have three children: Tim, Levi, and Aaron. Debbie is currently completing her Masters Degree in Business Management and will begin her doctorate studies in Industrial Psychology soon thereafter.



MCLE Update

You won't want to miss the "Thirteenth Annual Central California Bankruptcy Institute" sponsored by CCBA and San Joaquin College of Law.

This annual two day conference (September 16 & 17) is designed for attorneys, accountants, lenders, consultants, and others who deal with individuals and businesses in financial distress and will be held at the Ramada Inn in Fresno. Scheduled presenters include nationally recognized speakers, prominent judges, and top rate local practitioners experienced in their field. Available education credit include 12.50 hours of MCLE credit for attorneys and 15 hours of CPE credit for CPAs.

Check you mailbox for more information coming soon !!

For more information, contact Mary Felkner, (559) 323-2100.

