

Fall 2000

- 2 Deans Message
- 3 News
- 4 Photo Pages
- 6 Profiles
- 7 Staff Happenings
- 7 Alumni Association

SJCL Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

An event to remember

Celebrating how far we have come in 30 years.

With almost 200 people at the All Class Reunion, SJCL alumni were able to catch up with classmates and former faculty. "I had a great time at the reunion. It was a truly terrific event!" states Barbara Greaver ('92).

The evening started off with hors d'oeuvres and wine in the lower hall of SJCL and ended with a catered dinner at the Clovis Memorial building. Honorable James Aaron ('74), SJCL's first graduate, gave a memorable impromptu speech at the end of the dinner by stating among other things that you can "Ask any Judge about SJCL's alumni and they will tell you that SJCL produces the finest lawyers in our community and in California."

The SJCL facility, including its courtroom, large state-of-the-art auditorium, and many classrooms, were available for the Alumni to tour, so they could see how far SJCL has come since its humble beginnings in the rented classrooms at Fresno Pacific University.

The upstairs hallways were adorned by picture boards, created by the staff, depicting each class — starting with the first graduating class of 1974 to the most recent class of 2000. These photo boards provided a snapshot into the history of the law school

and were an interesting

insight into the friendships developed while attending.

Also on permanent display were professionally framed graduation class photos from 1974 through 2000. Only 1981 is missing. The 1974 through 1985 pictures were recently added especially for this grand occasion.

Along with the memories of the party each guest also went home with a commemorative 30th anniversary wine glass.

SJCL would like to thank everyone who attended the 30th reunion for a wonderful evening.

Ernest Kinney ('75) and Roger Vehrs ('76) laugh it up about the early days of SJCL.





SJCL alumni have accomplished so much

What a thrill to see so many of the grads again!

Plans for the Reunion began over a year ago. The Alumni Association board told us they wanted a sit-down dinner event for the 30th Anniversary, so that was the direction we headed—hors d'oeuvres in the law school with memorabilia and then a nice dinner-no speeches, no extended program-just reminiscing and catching up. The Reunion Committee, consisting of Mark Enns, Joan Lassley, Joyce Morodomi, Pam Ramirez, Sally Perring, Jill Waller-Randles, and myself (with an assist by Jennifer Canalin Wycoff), then spent hundreds of hours making it happen.

Two things occurred in preparation that really added to the affair. First, Joan Lassley, SJCL's Law Coordinator, decided she wanted to find pictures of the first twelve classes. Starting in 1985, composite pictures of each class had been made and hung in the law school, but classes 1974 through 1984 were unrepresented. Joan became a detective, calling any one and every one. There are not many pictures of those early classes, but ultimately Joan was tremendously successful. We now have a picture of every class except 1981.

The pictures Joan located were copied and professionally mounted by artist

Claudia Fletcher. It was worth coming to the Reunion just to see them: they are spectacular!

Second, we tried to find every graduate and determine his or her current professional activity. What an eye-opener! SJCL grads are far more dispersed geographically and professionally than we believed! SJCL grads are impacting every possible aspect of legal practice.

SJCL grads are impacting every possible aspect of legal practice.

SJCL grads live, and many practice, in Alabama, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and Costa Rica. They are dispersed through-

out California. Grads work for firms in Los Angeles, Oakland, Orange, Salinas, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, San Diego, San Francisco, and San Rafael.

At least 20 SJCL grads are judges, court commissioners, or administrative law judges. SJCL grads are the Vice President for Legal Affairs for the Irvine Company, a Deputy Commissioner for the Board of Prison Terms, the District Attorney for Fresno, Kings, and Tulare Counties, the Chief Public Defender for Fresno County,

the Fresno County Clerk, a member of the California Water Resources Control Board, working for the United States Food and Drug Administration in Washington, D.C., the General Counsel for the California Department of Industrial Relations, and the Undersecretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Twenty-five grads work in the Fresno County District Attorney's office. Twenty grads work in the Tulare County District Attorney's office. Fourteen work for the Fresno Public Defender's office and at least four work for the Tulare Public Defender. Other grads work for the District Attorney's offices in Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Stanislaus Counties. SJCL grads work for the County Counsel in Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, and Monterey Counties. They work for the City Attorney in Bakersfield, Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, and San Francisco. At least eleven grads are research attorneys for the Fifth District Court of Appeal. Another five work in the Fresno office of the California Attorney General's Office. And then there are so many successful private practices!!

To have played a small role in the launching of so many wonderful careers — it truly made the entire staff and faculty feel like our work was worth doing!



Board of Trustees

Douglas Noll, J.D., Chair; **Hon. James A. Ardaiz**, Vice-Chair; **John Loomis, J.D.**, Treasurer

Ross Borba, Jr.; Richard Caglia, J.D.; Hon. Jane Cardoza; Edward D. Fanucchi, J.D.; Hugo Gomez-Vidal; James K. Herbert, LL.B.; Dr. Howard Loewen; William Lyles; Kendall Manock, J.D.; Elizabeth O'Neill, J.D.; Hon. Robert Oliver; Susie Osterberg; Wanda L. Rogers; Dr. Vivian Vidoli; David Weiland, J.D.; Sara Widener-Brightwell, J.D.

Moot Court Competition

With the help and dedication of the legal community, SJCL had another successful George A. Hooper Moot Court Competition.



(L-R) **Hon. Anthony Ishii**, *U.S. District Court Judge*; **Hon. Lawrence O’Neill**, *U.S. Magistrate Judge*; and **Hon. Steven Vartabedian**, *Fifth District Court of Appeal* participated as Moot Court Judges.



The hard works pays off as the proud recipients pose with their awards. **BACK ROW (L-R) Stan Boone**, *Instructor*; **Hon. Steven Vartabedian**; **Hon. Anthony Ishii**; and **Jon Conklin**, *Instructor/Moot Court Director*; **MIDDLE ROW (L-R) Michelle Jorgensen**; **Marilyn Olson**; **Julie Hicks**; and **Kira Chronister**; **FRONT ROW (L-R) Dianna Setoodeh**; **Kim Raven**; **Tara Brady**; and **Ann Bennett**.

Moot Court Awards

BEST ORAL ADVOCATE

Tara Brady

ORAL ADVOCATE FINALISTS

**Ann Bennett, Kim Raven,
and Dianna Setoodeh**

ORAL ADVOCATE SEMI-FINALISTS

**Kira Chronister, Michele
Jorgensen, Marilyn Olson,
and Michael Sobyra**

BEST BRIEF

**Kim Raven and
Dianna Setoodeh**

BEST BRIEF FINALISTS

**Cadee Ohansian and Shant
Kataroyan, Erica Camarena
and Ramona Llamas, Nirmal
Deswal and Julie Hicks**

Scholarship Recipient



John Cardot (L), President of Fresno County Young Lawyers Association, and **Leonard Herr (R)** were honored to present **Jeff Bohn (C)** with the George A. Hopper scholarship.

Full-Time Faculty

Lawrence M. Artenian, Richard M. Cartier, Denise M. Kerner, Janice L. Pearson, Sally A. Perring, Jeffrey G. Purvis

Adjunct Faculty

Russ Akins, Marc C. Ament, Hon. James A. Ardaiz, Tom Armstrong, Jesse J. Avila, Barry J. Bennett, Jeff Bird, Sal M. Blanco, Stanley A. Boone, Peter S. Bradley, Tim Buchanan, Hon. A. Dennis Caeton, David M. Camenson, Chris Campbell, Michael Carrigan, Jeff Carter, Ken Carver, Jonathan B. Conklin, Andrea DeShayes, Denise DiMascio, James E. Durkee, John P. Eleazarian, Thomas J. Georgouses, Christine A. Goodrich, Sara Hedgpeith-Harris, Ronald A. Henderson, Kim Herold, Elizabeth Karby, Kathi K. Kesselman, Heather Kruthers, Jim Ledbetter, Robert A. Mallek, Michael P. Mallery, Hon. Vincent J. McGraw, John McGregor, William McLaughlin, Mark D. Miller, Douglas E. Noll, Hon. Lawrence J. O’Neill, Deborah D. Owdom, Vickie Panagopoulos, Harry Pascuzzi, Rosendo Pena, Toni Porter, Duane R. Ruth-Heffelbower, Russell K. Ryan, Victor Salazar, Rose Safarian, James I. Shepard, Michael Seng, Michael Slater, Robert Swanton, David Weiland, Patti L. Williams, Curtis Wong, E. Robert Wright

All Class Reunion



Alumni Association President (L), **Priscilla Wright Craft** ('94), and Alumni Board Member (R), **Michelle West** ('95), admire **Lloyd Carter's** ('94) new professional image.



SJCL's first graduate, **Honorable James Aaron** ('74), relaxes with the "Light of his life," his fiancée, **Heather Harrison**.



The All Class Reunion was a great time for everyone to get reacquainted and to see the new SJCL building.



(L-R) **Honorable Gary Austin** ('76), one of SJCL's founders, **John Loomis**, and wife, **Sue Loomis**, welcomed the opportunity to talk with alumni.



(L-R) **John Rorabaugh** ('95), **Jim Trevino** ('99), and **Rob Cassio** ('99), as recent graduates, are glad to be just visiting.



(L-R) **David Weiland** ('92), **Lillian Weiland** and former faculty, **Dale Ikeda**, share old memories.



(L-R) **Lori Mayfield** ('94) and **Eileen Diemerly** ('94) were happy to reunite with old friends.



Dr. Edward Mosley ('81) and wife, **Marian Mosley**, congratulate **Jan Pearson** on a successful event.



SJCL Board Member, **James Herbert**, and former Dean, **Carol Sellers Herbert**, are excited about new opportunities for the law school.



Lorie Marderosian and **Michael Marderosian** ('77) anticipate the scrumptious dinner.



(L-R) **Stephen Wright** ('95), catches up with Alumni Association Board Members, **Melissa White** ('96) and **Michelle Oleksa** ('96), accompanied by her husband **Richard Oleksa**.

Alumni profiles

The year 2000 is the Twentieth Anniversary of the graduation of the Class of 1980 and the Tenth Anniversary of the Class of 1990. Throughout the year, we will be letting you know “where they are now.”

1980

Nancy Winston Silacci

Nancy first worked as a research attorney for the Fresno Superior Court. From 1983 to 1988, she worked as a Deputy District Attorney in Fresno. In August 1988, she joined Hanna, Brophy, MacLean, McAleer & Jensen where she did exclusively Workers Compensation defense work. In August 1994, she returned to the Fresno District Attorney's Office, this time in the Family Support Division. Nancy is married to Art Silacci. She has five grown stepchildren and, as of one month ago, a brand new first grandchild. Nancy and Art love to travel, a recent highlight being an Alaska cruise. They have purchased a home in Prescott, Arizona where they plan to retire in approximately five years. Nancy also loves reading and gardening.

She remembers the class of 1980 as very close. They went out somewhere after class frequently, but spent Saturdays and Sundays in the law library. She also remembers that the typing room for exams reeked of formaldehyde because it was the dissection room of the FPU Science Building.

Charles Dreiling

Charles began his legal career as a Defense Attorney for the Fresno Public Defender's office. He found appearing in court very exciting and was soon hooked. In 1984, he formed Dreiling & Keeling where he continued criminal law work for 2 1/2 to 3 years. Charles then spent slightly less than a year at the District Attorney's office on the Sexual Assault team. Quickly realizing

the error of his ways, he returned to the Public Defender's Office thirteen years ago. Today, Charles is the Chief Public Defender for Fresno County. He describes his current task - largely administrative - as hours and hours of boredom punctuated by sheer terror - much like a right fielder in baseball.

Charles and his wife have two adult daughters. Thirteen years ago they adopted a boy from Korea. Two years ago, Charles went to China and brought home their youngest son. The youngest is now into Irish step dancing while the oldest plays soccer. Charles says his “free” time is spent on yard work and soccer games.

Charles was working in management on the Helms Project during his last year of law school - long, long commutes and very little sleep. In fact, he says all of law school is pretty hazy at this point.

Craig Trippel

Upon graduating from law school, Craig went to work for Cowin, Johnson, Brewer, Tibbs & Kinney. In 1985, he opened his own firm. In 1990, he helped form Hager, Trippel, Macy & Jensen. Craig's work is largely civil litigation, specifically insurance defense. He says he thoroughly enjoys his work and looks forward to coming to the office each day. Craig and his wife live on six acres near Coarsegold with their 12 year-old son, Andrew. Andrew loves computers and creating animated cartoons. The family snow skis and works around the six acres. Craig finds the latter satisfying because you get the instant satisfaction of seeing a task done, unlike cases that can drag on for months.

Craig says the members of his class were very tight and looked out for each other. If someone ever needed something, the class would get it done. Robert Gorman, who died in mid-September of this year, was Craig's moot court partner. Their competition was Russ Cook and Greg Myers. J.V. Henry, a Constitutional Law expert, was to be their judge. They agreed in advance that they would avoid discussion of Constitutional law issues because they knew J.V. Henry would rip them to shreds. Then Russ Cook brought up a Constitutional Law issue and if looks could kill, he would have been dead. Craig also remembers partying all day at Bob Giovacchini's house when the bar results were posted.

Hon. Nancy Cisneros

Upon completing the bar examination, Nancy returned to work at Fresno County Legal Services where she had worked since 1977. In May of 1981, she left to become a Research Attorney for the Fresno Superior Court. In February of 1983 she followed Justice Hamlin to the Fifth District Court of Appeal where she served as his Senior Research Attorney. In April of 1988, she was appointed a Juvenile Referee. In October of 1994 she was appointed a Family Support Commissioner, followed in May of 2000 by assignment to the Family Law Department of the Fresno Consolidated Courts. Nancy lectured for Barpassers bar review course from 1983-1988. She has served as a presenter at numerous statewide and national seminars on issues of juvenile law, family law, and child support enforcement. In 1997, Nancy received the Child Support Commissioner of the Year award

Staff

Janice L. Pearson, Dean; **Sally A. Perring**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; **Lawrence M. Artenian**, Professor of Law; **Richard M. Cartier**, Professor of Law / Family Mediation Center Director; **Denise M. Kerner**, Professor of Law / Small Claims Supervisor; **Jeffrey G. Purvis**, James K. and Carol Sellers Herbert / Professor of Constitutional Law;

Tom Chacon, Accounting Assistant; **Ken Coyle**, M.I.S. Director; **Mark Enns**, Director of Recruitment & Public Relations; **Maureen Hayes**, Assistant to Chief Financial Officer; **Lonzetta Hightower**, Receptionist; **Joan Lassley**, Law Program Coordinator / Facilities Administrator; **Pamela Matthews**, Assistant Director of Development; **Kathryn McTigue-Floyd**, Library Director; **Joyce Morodomi**, Admissions Director / Registrar / Staff Photographer; **Tara Phelps**, Assistant Librarian; **Pam Ramirez**, Director, Paralegal Program / Director, Placement Services; **Rick Rodriguez**, Maintenance Supervisor; **Patricia Smith**, MCLE Coordinator; **Jill Waller-Randles**, Chief Financial Officer; **Gwen Watt**, Financial Aid Director

Staff Happenings



Pamela Matthews

Assistant Director of Development

Pamela Matthews joined SJCL's staff in September 2000 as Assistant Director of Development. For the last three of her six years at Fresno Pacific University she held the position of Capital Campaign Coordinator.

Pamela is laying the ground work for an enhanced development department to involve alumni, community, and friends in continuing the legacy of quality legal education in the San Joaquin Valley.

from the California Department of Social Services and the National Child Support Enforcement Association. In 1999, she received the Central California Legal Services Judicial Recognition Award.

Nancy currently focusses her energy on community outreach for the Court. She chairs the Access to Justice Committee and has just joined the Judicial Commission of the National Child Support Enforcement Administration.

Nancy and her husband, David Cisneros, are adored by two boxers, Lily and B.J. They enjoy gardening, working around the house, and movies. Nancy is also an avid mystery reader.

When asked what she remembers about law school, Nancy said "My classmates. What a wonderful group of people! It made the experience extraordinary. It was a real blessing to me to have such a supportive group of friends."

1990 Clint Cummins

Clint has worked for the Legal Department of State Compensation Insurance Fund since leaving law school and passing the bar. He represents employers before the Workers Compensation Appeals Board. State Fund is also the claims adjuster for all state agencies and a large portion of Clint's work involves employees at the Corcoran State Prison.

similar locations. They have also recently completed a major home remodeling. Pamela is a reporter for the Selma Enterprise/Kingsburg Recorder. They still have their two old cats which pleases the cat-loving dean.

Clint was working full-time while attending law school so he pretty much remembers it as a constant stream of work-work, work, work. However, he would not hesitate to do it all again, and feels it was one of the best decisions he ever made.

Deloise Tritt

The law firm of Tritt & Tritt opened its doors the moment Deloise passed the bar examination. Deloise's practice is almost exclusively family law. She expresses great satisfaction from the opportunities she gets to really improve a spouse's or a child's life.

Deloise had twin girls just a year old when she started law school. Now they are 15 and attending Edison GATE. Their big brother is a senior at the University of California at San Diego. Deloise and James devote their spare time to family and church activities. Recently, Deloise has been running around the west coast dealing with family illnesses.

With twins, working 20 hours a week, and going to school, Deloise remembers law school as one busy whirl. She says she remembers a time when Dean Pearson told her that the practice of law would be busier and she couldn't believe it, but it is!

In his thirtieth year as a bonsai grower, Clint helps organize the Fresno Bonsai Society's annual spring show. He also volunteers several weekends a year to prune trees in the Japanese style at the Shin-Zen Garden at Woodward Park. Clint and his wife, Pamela Bills, enjoy traveling with the local Porsche club. Clint still has his original Porsche. They participate in races and dinners with trips to Pismo, Pacific Grove, and

SJCL Alumni Association

By **Michelle G. Oleksa** ('99)

Vice President, SJCL Alumni Association

The Board members of the SJCL Alumni Association want to take this opportunity to keep you up to date on upcoming important events.

We hope you will play an active role in the Alumni Association by participating in the following events. You are encouraged to call the law school at (559) 323-2100 to sign up, or if you have any questions. Mailers will also be sent out in the weeks to come.

Nominations for Board Members

Being an Alumni Association Board Member is a great way to get involved. As a Board Member, you attend meetings once a month, and help plan the functions sponsored by the Alumni Association. Please feel free to nominate any alumni that you think would like to participate on the Board—including yourself!

2001 Membership Drive

When you receive a Membership Drive letter in the mail soon, PLEASE take the time to fill-in the short form about who and where you are, and include annual dues of only \$30.00. The annual dues that are collected each year ensure that the Alumni Association will be able to provide scholarships to SJCL students, sponsor the yearly Christmas party for children in need, and other activities.

Seventh Annual Christmas Party

We are happy to be able to continue the tradition of providing a party and gifts for underprivileged children. We work closely with Social Services and CASA, a children's advocacy organization, to make sure that children in long-term foster care have a chance to visit with Santa and have a gift to open for the Holiday Season. With your generous donations and assistance, we hope to sponsor the party for 50 or more children. You will receive a flier soon, and we encourage you to contribute your time and/or donations.

Clovis proclamation honors SJCL



In recognition of the valuable contribution SJCL has made over the last thirty years to the community, Clovis City Council proclaimed September San Joaquin College of Law month. "SJCL has been a good neighbor" stated Clovis Mayor Harry Armstrong. Denise Kerner, Hugo Gomez-Vidal, Joyce Morodomi, Jill Randles, and Mark Enns accepted this proclamation on the behalf of SJCL.

Tell us about yourself

Write us about what you are doing. It's a great way to reconnect with old friends and classmates. Include your graduation date & program (i.e. J.D., Paralegal, or Tax Law), current address, family information, recent accomplishments, and any other information or photos you would like to provide. Then send us your information by fax: (559) 323-5566, email: info@sjcl.org, or mail it to: Mark Enns, SJCL, 901 5th Street, Clovis, California 93612.

We need your donation

SJCL is in need of some new computers. If you have a Pentium II or better computer that you would like to donate please contact Ken Coyle at 323-2100.

We also accept office furniture donations and are in need of a small conference table. Please contact Joan Lassley to arrange any donations.

SJCL

San Joaquin College of Law
901 5th Street
Clovis, California 93612

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Fresno, CA
Permit No. 721

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED