



Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

Volume XX, Number 1

March 2009

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Elizabeth O'Neill Scholarship Breakfast

On February 21st, in conjunction with the SBA's annual Race Judicata fun run, SJCL held its 1st annual pancake breakfast and children's book drive to benefit the Elizabeth O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund.

By **Robin Leppo**, Director of Institutional Advancement

Mrs. O'Neill sat on the SJCL Board of Trustees for 14 years. She was a 1936 Fresno High graduate who raised 5 children before completing her law degree in 1969 from Boalt Hall. She was a nationally recognized figure in Family Law, an expert in child custody and visitation matters and a guest lecturer at several law schools in California. In 1982 she opened her own practice handling principally child custody cases.

In retirement she helped found Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

of Fresno County and the Fresno Council on Child Abuse Prevention (FCCAP). Thereafter, she served as a member of their boards until her passing in September of 2007. She was also a member of the Fresno County Grand Jury.

After her passing, SJCL, along with her family, thought it befitting to honor her memory by establishing a scholarship to support female heads of household who are attending law school at SJCL. The first O'Neill Scholarship was given in the Spring of 2008 to Kristen Gates (Law '08) who

is currently practicing with her father, Glen Gates (Law '78). This year's scholarship winner is second year student Stephanie Smith.

All donated books were given to the Sierra Vista Elementary School library in Clovis.

A special thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Clovis for preparing amazing pancakes and eggs, along with the O'Neill family for serving it!

More photos page 10



(L-R) **Daren Stemwedel** (nephew of Judge O'Neill and first year law student) with wife **Jennifer**, **Kevin Riley** (great-grandson) being held by **Tricia Riley** (granddaughter of Elizabeth), **Randy Wersching** (son-in-law of Elizabeth), **Kit Wersching** (Elizabeth's daughter), The **Honorable Lawrence O'Neill** (Elizabeth's son), **Kathy O'Neill** (Elizabeth's daughter-in-law), **Emma Riley** (great-granddaughter of Elizabeth), **Katie Wersching** (Elizabeth's granddaughter-in-law), and **Eric Wersching** (Elizabeth's grandson).

On November 28, 1969, the Articles of Incorporation for San Joaquin College of Law, a non-profit corporation, were filed with the Secretary of State of California.

The Articles listed three members of the Board of Trustees – Judge Dan Eymann, John Loomis, J.D., and Oliver Wanger, J.D. (now United States District Judge). Nine months later, in August of 1970, the first entering class sat in their seats in the rented facility on the campus of Fresno Pacific University. FORTY YEARS.

SJCL provided hundreds of people the opportunity to obtain a legal education. SJCL graduates seized those opportunities - accomplishing amazing things – from transactional work to judgeships to stars of litigation to in-house counsels of hospitals and businesses. SJCL graduates represent more than a fourth of the practicing lawyers in the Fresno area, as well as nearly half the women lawyers and a third of the minority lawyers. During those forty years, SJCL has evolved from an unaccredited institution to full state accreditation to full regional accreditation. It has moved twice, finally to its gorgeous Mediterranean Renaissance building in Clovis.

To celebrate its forty years, over the next year and a half, SJCL will host a number of events, beginning with the Barrister's Ball on May 2, 2009 and culminating with an all-class reunion in fall of 2010. We hope you will join us.

We have a lot to celebrate!



Janice Pearson
Dean

Race Judicata

Race participants enjoyed the fun and festivities at the 2009 Race Judicata Fun Run!

By **Sherrie Flynn** (Law '05), *Alumni Association Board Member*

On a beautiful morning, over 400 participants plus family, friends, volunteers, (and local judges too – we saw you Judge Snyder) rocked to the sounds of DJ Ben Salcido while they warmed-up in anticipation of a very fast race.

Roosevelt Cook again set the pace in the 5K (3.1 mile) Valley Runner of the Year race in a blazing time of 14 minutes, 57 seconds (a 4 minute, 50 second per mile average pace!). On the women's side, Alyson Berg ran another excellent race, finishing in 18 minutes and 18 seconds (a 5 minute, 54 second per mile average pace), to capture the female overall award. In an exciting finish to the two mile run, Humberto Osuma out-sprinted his competition, Anthony Villareal, by one second to win with a solid time of 10 minutes and 25 seconds and, with no one even close, Annelis Walker from Clovis outran all other females with a fast time of 12 minutes 40 seconds. Even the winning 70+ year old male 2-mile runner, Gary Self, posted an extremely fast time of 16 minutes and 16 seconds! Congratulations to all who competed regardless of their age and finishing times.

The Race Judicata committee would like to thank race sponsors Baker Manock & Jensen, PC; McCormick Barstow LLP; Eye Q; Kimble MacMichael & Upton; Dowling Aaron & Keeler; American Ambulance; The Law Offices of Mark W. King; CARTS; IWS; Sierra

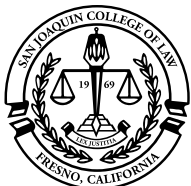
Running Company; and Joan Lassley for their generous contributions. Raffle sponsors also included Maia Pucay, who donated gift certificates for Shiatsu massage and Estella Salcido, who donated a gift basket from her local Clovis establishment, Salon



Sierra Challenge Express enjoying the pancake breakfast after the race. (L-R) **Maia Pucay, Ben Salcido, Sherrie Flynn** (Law '05), and **Gina Flores**.

Innovations. Thank you! Without your contributions this race would not be possible.

Thank you also to Dr. Garry Sevel, the official Race Judicata doctor, the Clovis Reserve Police Officers, who volunteered to control traffic and ensure the safety of the runners, the Race Judicata Race Committee for all of their time and effort in putting together a great race, and the San Joaquin College of Law Students and Sierra Challenge Express, Inc. members for volunteering their time on race morning.



Board of Trustees

Douglas Noll, J.D., *Chair*, Ross Borba, Jr., *Vice Chair*, John Loomis, J.D., *Secretary/Treasurer*
Richard Caglia, J.D., Hon. Jane Cardoza, Deborah Ann Coe, J.D., Greg Durbin, J.D., Edward D. Fanucchi, J.D.,
Jan L. Kahn, J.D., Hon. Robert Oliver, Dianna Setoodeh, J.D., Dennis Veeh, CPA, David Weiland, J.D., Bob Whalen, J.D.,
Richard Cartier, J.D., *Faculty Representative*, Erik Peterson, J.D., *Alumni Representative*, David Ibarra, *SBA Representative*

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Donor Wall Reception

On Friday, January 9, 2009, SJCL hosted its 4th annual reception for donors who are on the Lifetime Giving Society Donor Wall of the law school, and honored, Donor of the Year, Ross Borba, Jr.

By **Robin Leppo**, Director of Institutional Advancement

Due to the increasing number of donors who have reached giving levels of \$2,500 and over, the entire donor wall was moved to the north wing main hallway to accommodate current and future additions. This year's donor wall saw 13 new donor additions and 8 donor elevations. To celebrate this accomplishment the evening's festivities included Dean Pearson thanking all who were present for their support of the law school. Attendees were entertained by the Fresno Pacific University String Quartet and drank assorted wine offerings and snacked on scrumptious hors d'oeuvres prepared by Chef Reyes Chacon of One to One Catering.

SJCL had the pleasure of honoring long-time San Joaquin Valley farmer and SJCL Board of Trustees member, Ross Borba, Jr. of Borba Farms. Ross embodies his motto of "Give of your Time, Talent & Treasure," as evidenced by his participation in the Founder's Circle giving society, serving on the Board of Trustees for more than 14 years—currently as Vice-Chair, and being a founding sponsor of the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*. He sits on the law school's finance and development committees, as well as the SJALR Advisory Board.

While his family and friends gathered, Ross spoke eloquently on why he gives to SJCL. He stated, "About 40 years ago, the founders of SJCL had a



Mark & Peggy Borba, Nancy Flynn, Ross Borba, Jr., SJCL Board of Trustees Member and Tina Borba.



Fresno Pacific University String Quartet

dream. Through giving of their time, talents and treasure, SJCL was born and has grown into what it is today. I want to encourage all who have benefited from receiving their legal education at SJCL to recognize what others gave to provide that opportunity and recognize that but for their gifts, that opportunity wouldn't have existed. Begin, and continue to give, that others

might receive the same opportunity. Philanthropy means to me, giving of your time, talent and treasure. I have learned the joys and responsibilities of giving, and that is why I support SJCL and its excellent legal program!" It sums up nicely why SJCL felt him most deserving to be honored as SJCL's 2009 Donor of the Year.

Full-Time Faculty

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

Adjunct Faculty

Jesse Avila; Art Baggett, Barry J. Bennett, Hristo Bijev, Stanley A. Boone, Andreas Borgeas, David M. Camenson, Dan Casas, Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Phil Cronin, Mark Cullers, Matthew Farmer, Jack Fischer; Tom Georgouses, Christine Goodrich, Jason Hamm, Allan E. Junker, Hon. David Kalemkarian, Kathi K. Kesselman, Jeremy Lusk, Michael P. Mallery, Jeff Manning-Cartwright, Deanna Martinez, Lewis Martinez, William T. McLaughlin II, Mark D. Miller, Douglas E. Noll, Kimberly Nystrom-Geist, Harry Pascuzzi, Rose Safarian, Gary Sawyers, Michael Sheltzer, Michael Slater, Hon. Mark Snauffer, Bob Whitlock, Jacqueline Yates.

Relationship Recruitment – Key to Enrollment

Establishing a relationship with an alumnus is the key to helping a student make the decision to invest the time and money to obtain a law degree.

By **Diane Steel**, *Director of Admissions*

As I find students spell bound by personal stories more so than law school facts, it is our alumni I am turning to for stories of how a law degree can change one's life. In order to move a casually interested prospect into a committed enrolled student, I need the help of our alumni by communicating to students via email or by serving as a spokesperson at one of our prospective student forums.

Today's students are almost always online and are incredibly social. In addition to enhancing our visibility and communication tools online, it is our alumni that remain the greatest recruitment tool and are the key in developing a strong relationship with the student. Above all, students are more likely to enroll in an institution that takes the time to get to know them.

What this means to San Joaquin College of Law is if we wish to meet our enrollment goals, we have to work harder than ever to develop strong relationships with prospective students. The student relationship is established through online and offline communications but it is through effective in-person encounters with staff, faculty and alumni that students decide to make the commitment to choose San Joaquin College of Law to obtain their law degree. Relationship recruiting is the future and I welcome the help of our alumni to grow our enrollments



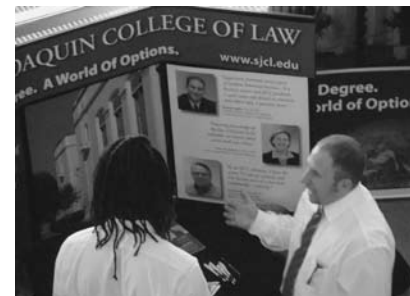
Adjunct faculty member **Honorable Jon Conklin** facilitates the Law Forum on February 19 for prospective students.



Law School Student Panelists **Daljit Rakkar, Kristi Costa, Pamela Elliot,** and **Scott Levy** answer questions to prospective students at the Law Forum.

and build relationships with students and our institution.

Please arrange to accompany a prospective student to San Joaquin College of Law and give a personal tour. Share with them your greatest memories of law school. If you would like to assist in a Law Forum or are willing to talk to prospective students contact me at dsteel@sjcl.edu or 559/323-2100.



Scott Levy, *Law Student*, talking to prospective students at the Fresno State Career Expo, February 24.

Staff

Janice Pearson, Dean, **Sally Perring**, Dean of Academic Affairs, **Debbi Chacon**, Accounting Assistant, **Kristi Costa**, Head of Circulation, **Ken Coyle**, Manager of Information Systems, **Matthew Dillard**, Maintenance Assistant, **Mark Enns**, Marketing Manager, **Maureen Hayes**, Assistant to Chief Financial Officer, **Lonzetta Hightower**, Student Services Assistant, **Joan Lassley**, Facilities Administrator & Alumni Liaison, **Robin Leppo**, Director of Institutional Advancement, **Jeannie Lewis**, Director of Financial Aid, **Joyce Morodomi**, Director of Student Services & Special Events Coordinator, **Mia Moore**, Administrative Assistant for Accounting, **Carlyn Robbins**, Administrative Assistant/ Receptionist, **Cynthia Robinson**, Head of Technical Services, **Rick Rodriguez**, Maintenance Supervisor, **Pete Rooney**, Law Librarian, **Patricia Smith**, Law Coordinator, **Diane Steel**, Director of Admissions, **Cynthia Van Doren**, Director of Career Services, **Jill Waller-Randles**, Chief Financial Officer, **Gwen Watt**, Human Resources & Regulatory Compliance Officer, **Kasi Welte**, Institutional Advancement Associate & Continuing Legal Education Coordinator

July 2008 Barpassers



FRONT ROW (L-R) **Baz Vannorsdall**, Catherine Dwyer, Dede Agrava, Kristen Gates, and Julie Jones

SECOND ROW (L-R) **Amy Lovegren-Tipton**, Stephanie Grewal, Douglas Harrison, Jennifer Walters, and Christina Hathaway

THIRD ROW (L-R) **Brianna Ellis**, Bob Abrams, William McComas, Mary Thornton, and Peter Wall

BACK ROW (L-R) **Adam Stirrup**, Ray Isleib, Marcus DiBuduo, and Bennie McGriff

NOT PICTURED **Jamie Allen**, Errin Anderson-Woodward, Jim Binion, Bobby Cloud, Ella Floresca, Michelle Hatherley-Parr, Maribel Hernandez, Leanne Kent, Dallas Neumann, Teresa Petty, Heather Phillips, William Reiland, Brooke Sorensen, and Joel Winter

MMC Christmas Party

By **Kim Mayhew** (Law '98), *Alumni Association Event Chair*

On December 11, 2008, the Alumni Association hosted its annual Christmas party for the residents of the Marjaree Mason Center at SJCL. Thanks to the always generous donations by SJCL alumni and staff, all children received gifts, ranging from toy trucks, dolls and stuffed animals for the little ones to clothing and gift cards for the teens. Santa was on hand to distribute the gifts and take photos with the partygoers. Each mother in attendance also received a luxurious gift basket of bath

and beauty products. Kopi Sotiropoulos from KMPH gave generously of his time this year, hosting the party and chatting with the kids and moms.

Everyone in attendance feasted on taquitos, quesadillas and other tasty Mexican food, as well as some wonderful home-baked treats. The partygoers were also treated to a performance by the Buchanan High School choir. Thank you to all who made this such a special holiday event.



BACK ROW (L-R) **Carey Hartsock**, *Law Student*, **Gwen Watt**, *Staff*, **Kevin Hansen** (Law '85), **Joan Lassley**, *Staff*, **Marcella Downing** (Law '05), **Judy Rogers** (Law '04), **Kopi Sotiropoulos**, *KMPH Fox26 Anchor*, and **Erik Peterson** (Law '07).

FRONT ROW (L-R) **Sherrie Flynn** (Law '05), **Rick Horowitz** (Law '06 & "Santa Claus"), **Joyce Morodomi**, *Staff*, **Kim Mayhew** (Law '98), **Jennifer Walters** (Law '04) with **Gavin & Britten** and **Cynthia VanDoren** (Law '04), *Staff*.

I bid welcome to my fellow newly elected board members, Robert Hirth, Nitzza Coleman, and Erik Peterson.

Also returning on the board are Sherrie Flynn, Kevin Hansen, Jeremy Lusk, Judy Rogers, and Cynthia Van Doren. A word of thanks is in order to the generous people who give of their time by helping out in a wide variety of ways.

I plan to continue the work of the previous board as we look for more ways to increase the value of participation in the Alumni Association. The Association does more than organizing the occasional event; it provides an opportunity for scholarship, leadership and relationships. We are a vital link between the students, the school and the community where we all live and work.

Speaking of events, at the recent Elizabeth O'Neill Pancake Breakfast I saw many familiar faces. The breakfast provided opportunities for scholarship by raising funds for the new Elizabeth O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Fund. It also demonstrated leadership by providing a source for donated books to help the children of Sierra Vista Elementary School right here in Clovis.

Please get involved and share some of your time and talents this year. With choices ranging from Senior Law Day, Marjaree Mason party in December, Got MCLE, and cookies and coffee night for graduating students. You can find a way to invest in the future!

We want to hear from you, but more importantly, we want to see you again. As Emily Dickinson put it, our friends are our estate. So, if you have some new ideas or there is something you would like from the Association, we want to know about it. Please drop in at one of the monthly board meetings. They are held on the third Monday of each month at 6:00PM in the staff lounge at the school.

Thank you for your support of the Alumni Association. I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming activities.

Sincerely,
Scott Jones (Law '07)
2009 Alumni Association President

Legacy Luncheons

Classes of 1979, 1980 & 1981

(L-R) **Daniel McCloskey** (Law '81), **John Mesrobian** (Law '79), **John Shehadey** (Law '81), **Gregory Myers** (Law '80), **John Loomis**, *Founder*, **Craig Trippel** (Law '80), **Karen Kern** (Law '80), **Randall Penner** (Law '81), **Ron Henderson** (Law '80). Attending but not pictured **Dr. Robert Garabedian** (Law '81).



Classes of 1982, 1983 & 1984

BACK ROW (L-R) **Ronald Sawl** (Law '84), **Thomas Sharpe** (Law '83), **Catherine Benko** (Law '82), **Peter Wasemiller** (Law '82), **Janine (Reagan) Walsh** (Law '82), **Doug Haas** (Law '82), **Deborah Byron** (Law '82), **Joanne Sanoian** (Law '82), **John Garland** (Law '84).

FRONT ROW (L-R) **Barry Bennett**, *Labor Law Instructor*, **Denise Kerner** (Law '83), *Faculty*, **John Loomis**, *Founder*, and **Norman Fletcher**, *Torts Instructor*.



Classes of 1985 & 1986

BACK ROW (L-R) **Kevin Hansen** (Law '85), **Hon. W. Richard Lee** (Law '85), **Michael Splivalo** (Law '86), **Kevin Gunner** (Law '86), **Don Horvath**, *Former Adjunct Faculty*, **Tamane Krazan Armstrong** (Law '86), **Warren Paboojian** (Law '85), **Peter Bunting** (Law '85), **Sara Hedgpeth-Harris** (Law '86), **Donna Korotie** (Law '85), **William Frank** (Law '85), **Pamela McFarland** (Law '85), **Adina Janzen** (Law '85), and **Linda Zachritz** (Law '86)

FRONT ROW (L-R) **John Loomis**, *Founder*, **Janice Pearson**, *Dean*, **Gail Bovell-Tong** (Law '86)

Class of 1987

BACK ROW (L-R) **Roberta Duffy**, **Hon. Houry Sanderson**, **Sally Perring**, *Dean of Academic Affairs*, **Anidelle Flint**, **Mark Busick** and **William Gilbert**.

FRONT ROW (L-R) **Flora Istanboulian**, **Janice Pearson**, *Dean*, **John Loomis**, *Founder*, and **Jim Witherow**.



Class of 1988

BACK ROW (L-R) **Greg Bacchetti**, **Ron Calhoun**, **Maureen Spangler**, **Glenn LoStracco**, **Bethany Baker**, **Russ Reynolds**, **Janice Pearson**, *Dean*, and **Sally Perring**, *Dean of Academic Affairs*.

FRONT ROW (L-R) **Francine Kanne** and **Holley Perez**



Class of 1989

BACK ROW (L-R) **Robert Wynne**, **Woodrow Nichols**, **Jane Smith**, **Hon. James Petrucelli**, **Charles Magill**, and **Thomas Armstrong**.

FRONT ROW (L-R) **Sally Perring**, *Dean of Academic Affairs*, **John Loomis**, *Founder*, **Janice Pearson**, *Dean* and **Hon. Elizabeth Parker**.



Class of 1996

(L-R) **Stan Ma**, **Albert Ramirez**, **John Loomis**, *Founder*, **Carmen Lango**, **Bob Hirth**, **Nancy Stegall**, **Lori Anderson**, **Susan Murray**, **Richard Cartier**, *Faculty*, **Jan Pearson**, *Dean*, **Ofra Pleban**, **H. Ty Kharazi**, **Jeff Mendoza**, **Barry Bennett**, *Faculty*, **Jenell (Hudson) Van Bindsbergen**, **Leslie Moore**, **Sally Perring**, *Dean of Academic Affairs*, **Melissa White** and **Linda Richardson** (Law '95).

Delta Theta Phi Fundraising Tournament

The Hollis G. Best Senate of the Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity, International, thanks everyone who participated in our charity Texas Hold'Em Tournament on Friday, February 20, 2009 at Ovidio's Italian Restaurant.

By **Bryan Tellalian**, *Delta Theta Phi Dean*

The tournament was a success on many fronts and we exceeded our fund-raising goals for this year. Thanks to your support, we were able to fund DTP scholarships, the Dean's trip to the biannual DTP Convention and Leadership Conference, and ensure that our Senate is on a secure financial foundation going into next year.

Special thanks go to our tournament director, Monica Thissen. We would also like to thank the DTP members who volunteered to sell tickets and advertised this event.

Thanks again for your support!



Tournament Director **Monica Thissen** (left) presents the first-place trophy to **Mike Browns** (center) and congratulates **Bo Koenig** (right) who came in second place.



The tournament was held at Ovidio's Italian Restaurant in Fresno.

YOU ARE INVITED TO
SAN JOAQUIN COLLEGE OF LAW'S

2009
Commencement

MAY 30, 2009
3:00PM

WILLIAM SAROYAN THEATRE
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

Commencement Speaker



Honorable Lawrence O'Neill

*U.S. District Court for the
Eastern District of California*

LawSUIT (Law Students United in Tolerance)

In its first year as an official SJCL student organization, LawSUIT has held many events to benefit the students of SJCL and members of the community.

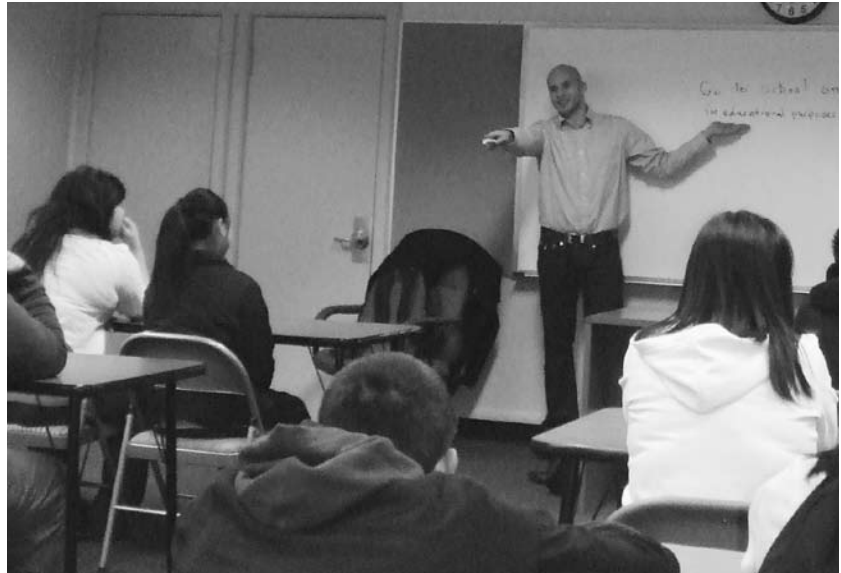
By **David Ibarra**, *LawSUIT President*

While LawSUIT's overall goal is promoting equality and addressing diversity issues, LawSUIT has also taken an interest in helping 1L students adjust to their first year in law school. At its first event, the organization held a 1L support session in order to address students questions and concerns.

In February of 2009, the organization held an event on campus for the City of Clovis Youth Employment Center. Nearly 30 high school students were welcomed by LawSUIT members Erick Rhoan, Travis Ishikawa, David Ibarra, and Henry Campa. The students, composed mainly of minorities, received a tour of the SJCL campus. With the help of SJCL's Director of Admissions, Diane Steel, the members answered questions regarding law school and discussed issues and difficulties that may sometimes for minority students. The students responded positively to the thought of attending law school and were quite enthusiastic when entering the courtroom.

Also in February, members Claudia Canuda and Rachel Cartier took on a special project in honor of Black History Month. In celebration of this month-long event, students were educated on historic events and milestones through displays in the halls of SJCL. The students were also surprised with fun facts and information about black history in the United States.

With the help of its members, SJCL faculty and students, LawSUIT has had a very successful first year. Nearing its first complete year as a student organization, LawSUIT is finishing strong. The organization will end its



David Ibarra presenting students with information about going to law school.



Henry Campa giving a tour to the students in the library.

spring semester with participation in Relay for Life, hosting a movie night, and receiving Professor Jeffery Purvis as its new faculty advisor.

If you would like more information regarding Law Students United in Tolerance, please contact David Ibarra at Ibarra71@sbcglobal.net.

Elizabeth O'Neill Scholarship Breakfast



Janice Pearson, Dean, **Hon. Nancy Cisneros**, and **Hon. Lawrence O'Neill**



Adjunct Professor **Stanley Boone** with wife **Karen** and daughter **Lauren**



Hon. Stephen J. Kane



Elizabeth O'Neill's great granddaughter **Emma Riley**



Barbara Logan, **Cathy Frost**, and **Hon. Sandra Snyder**



Tracy Haas and **Mark King** (Law '05)



Elizabeth O'Neill's great grandson **Kevin Riley**



Over 100 people enjoyed breakfast prepared by the Clovis Kiwanis club.



Hon. Gary Austin, **Joan Lassley**, *Alumni Liaison*, with her granddaughter **Reagan Francis**



Alumni President **Scott Jones** (Law '07) with his wife **Laurie** and son **Michael**



Manny Ignacio, *1st Year Student and Advancement Intern*, **Mark Enns**, *Marketing Manager*, and **Robin Leppo**, *Director of Institutional Advancement*



Joyce Morodomi, *Director of Student Services & Special Event Coordinator* and **Kasi Welte**, *Institutional Advancement Associate*

Alumni Profiles

SJCL congratulates our alumni celebrating 10, 20, and 30-year anniversaries in 2008. It has been my pleasure contacting and interviewing each of you. Thanks to those who participated in this effort. I look forward to catching up at the next milestone.

-Joan Lassley, Alumni Liaison

1979 Jose Banelos

Jose has been employed with the State of California for more than 29 years – the majority with the California Department of Social Services. He was initially employed as one of only five Staff counsels with the Community Care Licensing Enforcement Unit (CCL) which took administrative actions to revoke or deny licenses to CCL facilities (day care centers, foster homes, group homes). Jose occasionally ran into former classmates who were representing clients with CCL licenses; it was much easier to resolve cases when the attorneys knew each other.

In 1992 Jose became an Administrative Law Judge conducting hearings concerning denials, decreases, or discontinuances of public assistance. Jose was appointed Presiding ALJ II and given the responsibility to open a State Hearings Office in Fresno in April 1997. Jose had the opportunity to hire one SJCL graduate, ALJ Elizabeth Parker. In April 2008, the Fresno office was closed to “streamline efficiencies” within the Division. Jose is now the Presiding ALJ II in charge of the Division’s Training and Quality Improvement Bureau and will soon move to Sacramento.

Jose and his wife, Carol, recently celebrated their fortieth (40th) wedding anniversary. They have four children. Matt and his wife, Sue, live in Davis and have blessed them with four active grandchildren. Matt is a first-year principal in Dixon. Jose and Carol also have twin girls. The younger one (by five minutes), Holly, is married. She and her husband are school teachers in the Lebanon, Ohio area. The

elder twin, Heather, is an attorney for Hunton and Williams in Washington, D.C. She and her significant other are expecting their first child (a girl) on July 4th. Jose’s youngest, Joel, is a massage therapist in San Francisco.

Carol and Jose are involved with the Northpointe Community Church. Carol enjoys making quilts for friends, the grandchildren, and a foster child placement agency in Fresno. Jose enjoys riding larger Japanese motorcycles. He has made trips with friends where they rode to the Calgary Stampede, Alaska, Sturgis, and Cabo San Lucas (finally drank that daiquiri on the beach). Golf is a thing of the past.

Jose has fond memories of SJCL in the rented classrooms on the Fresno Pacific campus. He started school with his friend from the IRS, Steven Denning, in 1974. They thought it would be just like college and they didn’t have to do anything for the first class. Founding Dean and Judge Dan Eymann addressed the freshman class and made some remarks about why the “reasonable man” standard is used in law instead of the other gender. Then Dean John Loomis stepped to the podium and asked who was ready to discuss the first case, which Jose doesn’t recall because he hadn’t read it. Out of a class of 125 people, one intrepid soul volunteered. Two hours later, Dean Loomis called a break. When they reconvened, the volunteer had slunk off into the night, never to return. They knew then that this was not college

Jose’s study group consisted of Steven Denning, Bill Hancock, Bob Gilmore, and himself. After class, they were regulars at the Denny’s at Blackstone

and Shields because of the free coffee refills. All four of his original study group passed the Bar on their first attempt. “What a relief!”

Jose considers himself very fortunate to have been accepted into a school that did not require him, and some other Viet Nam and Korean War Veterans, to have bachelors’ degrees. “As of the early 1980’s, all those students had graduated from SJCL and passed the Bar. To the past and current administrations of SJCL - thank you.”

John Mesrobian

John started Loss Protection Investigations, Inc. (LPI) in 1976 and incorporated in 1977. The company is involved in personal injury, criminal defense and retail and industrial loss consulting. Along the way, John became a Certified Protection Professional (C.P.P.), through the American Society for Industrial Security, and a C.F.E. through the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

John has been a 15-year member and Chapter Officer of the Institute of Internal Auditors. He was the first Chapter Chairman and one of the founders of the Fresno Valley Chapter of the American Society for Industrial Security. Recently John passed one of the two examinations (and currently studying for the second one) for the C.I.P.P. (Certified Information Privacy Professional), a certification granted by the International Association of Privacy Professionals. Approximately 25 years ago, LPI started providing document destruction services. That part of the business has grown to 13 employees. Based on the same ownership, they are one of the five oldest companies in the country providing this service. Almost two years ago, John stopped accepting investigation assignments in an attempt to have more free time, and to spend more time on document destruction and farming. John’s plans are to initiate a consulting and expert witness practice in another year.

John has been married to Barbara, for 32 years. Barbara is a Registered Dietitian. She has become involved in the document destruction business in recent years. They have three children. Daren, the oldest at 30, graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, with a Industrial Engineering Degree and obtained a MBA from USC. He currently is employed as an associate with an investment banking firm. Kevin and Karen have followed Barbara and Daren's lead and are currently enrolled at Cal Poly. Kevin is a Business major and Karen, who will graduate this coming year, is a Philosophy major. She is currently preparing to take the LSAT.

Barbara and John have also been involved in farming since 1995. They have been growing grapes for table, raisin and juice. This past September, they planted 35 acres of organic olives for olive oil and expect their first harvest in 2010. John was a member of the Rotary Club of Fresno for eight years, but currently his outside attention has been focused as a three-year board member for their 1600 member trade association, NAID (National Association of Information Destruction). John is currently a candidate for President Elect.

Most of John's outside interests have been related to work. He studies technical equipment related to investigations and document destruction. About three years ago, he began riding a motorcycle again and enjoys being a member of the local BMW club.

Because John had a family and was starting and running a business during law school, that period is mostly a blur of activity. His fondest memory was graduation.

1989 Thomas Armstrong

During law school, Tom worked for Lerrigo, Snyder, Nibler, Moss & Berryman and Bennett and Sharpe.

In October 1989, Tom was hired as a judicial law clerk for U.S. Bankruptcy

Judge Richard T. Ford. He worked for Judge Ford for 5 years. In 1994 he left and worked briefly with Hagop Bedoyan practicing bankruptcy law. His first case with Hagop was the first, and only, successful reorganization of the Foodland grocery stores.

In April 1995, Tom opened his own office practicing in all areas of bankruptcy. He represents debtors, creditors, creditor committees and trustees under Chapters 7, 11, 12, & 13 of the Bankruptcy Code. Recently, he represented a major creditor in the Running Horse Golf Course case, the creditors' committee in Mauldin Dorfmer Construction case, and has represented numerous public entities as creditors over the years.

Toms' wife, Cathy, practices as a family practice doctor. Art, his step-son, is an attorney with Fresno County Counsel. Toms' step-daughter, Maya, is in medical school at Johns Hopkins. Brittney is a college student living in southern California. Last, but certainly not least, is Kelsey, with whom Cathy was pregnant when Tom's class graduated from law school. Kelsey works in Tom's office as a legal assistant while attending college full time in Fresno. She aspires to be a lawyer and probably will be attending SJCL.

While teaching in the paralegal program at SJCL, Tom was named the teacher of the year a number of times. It was an honor to be thought of so highly by the students.

Tom served as the only two term president of Central California Bankruptcy Association from 1995 through 1997. He continues to participate with that organization as a speaker and sponsor. Tom also served as president of the California Bankruptcy Forum, a statewide organization of insolvency professionals, for 2005-2006.

Toms' interests continue to be with his family. He plays the guitar regularly and continues to learn new material. Since law school, Tom was able to return to one of his greatest passions in

life, snow skiing. With that came the Shaver Lake cabin. Tom also continues, as a loyal fan, to attend Raider games.

Cathy and Tom have traveled to Europe and Canada a number of times. They support the Greek Orthodox Church and various non-profit organizations such as the Fresno Zoo and the arts.

Tom's most fond memories of SJCL involve his classmates. They were a great class that stuck together through thick and thin. Tom remembers that they were the class that was going to have to work especially hard to pass the BAR, if they passed at all. Well, they all passed. In fact, the class of 1989, had the highest pass rate on the California BAR exam that year beating the likes of Boalt Hall, Stanford, Harvard etc. What a great outcome for their class and the school! Tom states, "This would not have been possible but for the tremendous support of the staff at SJCL, our families who stuck with us, and of course, the great classmates in our class who each helped one another through the tough times studying for the BAR. In retrospect, some of the toughest times I experienced in my life occurred while in law school. I must say that while every difficult task was met, each was tempered by at least someone in our class. The experience of those four years with those 20-some odd folks was a life changing event for me that I would not trade. Some friendships remain with frequent contact. The others, while not seeing each other for so many years, will always have a special place in my memories. We all endured and we are all better for what we endured together."

Charles Magill

Chuck worked with Jerry Henry '74 and then John Smurr while attending SJCL. Chuck is also very proud of his class and their first-time bar pass rate when 20 of 21 passed.

Chuck went to work as a criminal defense attorney immediately upon passing the bar and has been a sole practitioner ever since. He has tried

over 100 felony trials. Chuck maintains that the brains behind the firm is his wife, Laura.

Chuck and Laura have 5 children, four at home. The two sophomores are interested in skiing, soccer, tennis, cheerleading and mock trial work. Their two youngest are in the 7th and 2d grades. Laura and Chuck spend many hours at Sierra Summit with the children and in mock trial practice where they coach high school students.

Chuck maintains it has been a joy to practice law and be in trial; he feels it has been his calling. The opportunity to mentor and guide his clients has been rewarding.

Chuck has fond memories of the donut shop on Shields and the after-class visits to Harry's Bar at Manchester Center, where fellow classmates discussed the lessons of the day. Learning the law was a very interesting baptism into the Fresno County Bar. Judge Larry O'Neill taught trial practice and was one of Chuck's first trial judges. Chuck recalls asking for a one day continuance of a trial when he needed surgery and Judge O'Neill asked him if it was for brain surgery. Chuck joked in return and that respect of humor in the courtroom is one thing Chuck brings to court to strike a balance with his ability to be a strong advocate.

1999 Richard Caglia

Since law school, Rich has been primarily involved in his family's waste management businesses - Industrial Waste and Salvage, Cedar Avenue Recycling and Transfer Station and Caglia Demolition and Recycling. He has a passion for politics and it just so happens that the waste industry is very political. Rich has run in several campaigns, including Fresno City Council. Rich was elected as Trustee for State Center Community College District this last November and will serve until 2012. Rich works with local and State governmental regulatory agencies.

He lobbies many elected officials on behalf of his family businesses. He also continues to work in other family operations including Electric Motor Shop and Warnor's Theatre.

Richard has two beautiful daughters, Alexa, who is 8-years-old, and Ella, who is 5. He says they are the joys of his life!

Rich has continued to support SJCL by sitting as a Board member since the year he graduated. He is part of the Development Committee and his continued support has been valued and appreciated. If the College ever has any lighting, electrical or cabling needs, Rich always comes through with the best support technicians to help in any way to save the College precious resources.

Rich has very fond memories of his days at SJCL and credits his classmates with helping him get through those very difficult days of study. As Student Body president he guided the Race Judicata, was in charge of a memorable Spring Banquet and the class of 1999's graduation was held at his family's historic Warnor's Theatre.

Rich (AKA "The Don" with his classmates) has lasting memories of great classmates - Tracy "Sister" Sagle, Zipporah "Zip" Underhill, "Diamond" Dave Moeck, Rob "Switzerland" Cassio, Kristine "Hooty" Howe, Jim "JT" Trevino, "Fat Dog" Bill Parry and "Scotty K" Kubota. (along with many others) They certainly had many opportunities to make things lively and they had fun doing it.

He credits his success to these classmates as well as the teachers at SJCL.

Robert Cassio

After law school Rob went to work at Yohman, Parker, Kern, Nard and Wenzel. (Now Parker, Kern, Nard & Wenzel). He is a shareholder in the firm and has focused his work mainly in Workers' Compensation defense and employment related issues. It's not what Rob expected to do out of

law school, but he liked the people in the firm, their focus on life outside of the law, and the work is interesting. The Worker's Comp community is relatively small and less adversarial than some other areas of law which he enjoys. Rob has lectured on worker's comp issues throughout California and has enjoyed helping employers sort through the various issues that arise in business.

In 2004, Rob married Patty, who is a paralegal. They have a 3-year-old future third baseman named Conner who keeps them on their toes. Patty has a 19-year-old, Nick, who just started college at UC Irvine. Between work and the kids, the Cassio's stay pretty busy. They enjoy spending time at Shaver Lake and he still finds time to do some fishing. They are looking forward to taking Conner to Disney World for the first time soon.

Rob's SJCL memories are of good friends and long hours. He spent a lot of time with his study group and they even studied from time to time. Rob never thought he would miss law school, but he does miss the post class beers at Fridays and friendships that developed during his time at SJCL. Rich "The Don" Caglia, Dave, JT, Traci, Zip and many others kept his sanity during long hours of Civil Pro studying. While Rob does not get to see them much anymore, he will always consider them good friends and be grateful for helping him get through SJCL and the bar. Its been a great ten years--but it has gone by way too fast.

Michelle Oleksa

In the summer of 1998, between the second and third years of law school, Michelle was a summer clerk for Lang, Richert & Patch. She was offered a position there upon graduation, where she remained for a year. Michelle discovered that she really enjoyed bankruptcy work, so in 2000 she worked briefly for Riley Walter. In 2001, Michelle opened her own practice, where she happily remains today. Michelle's practice focuses

on Creditors' Rights and Chapter 7 Trustee representation in Bankruptcy Court, as well as on state court collection matters. In recent years, Michelle has had the opportunity to work on several high profile collection cases, including a case against a local casino that was closed down while a levy of the casino's cash occurred. There is never a dull moment!

Michelle is married to Richard and they recently celebrated their 20th anniversary in Las Vegas. At the same time, they celebrated the fact that they are expecting their fourth child. Oldest daughter, Jennifer, is eighteen and in her first year of college in the Honors Program at Willow International. She plans on transferring to UC Irvine or UCLA next year and would like to attain her Masters and Ph.D. in psychology. Their next daughter, Dana, is sixteen and a junior at Buchanan. She has been involved in cheer and tumbling most of her life, and hopes to eventually become a dentist. One year old son, Ryan, is an absolute joy to have in their lives. Their baby girl is due in April 2009.

Michelle is a member of Central California Bankruptcy Association (CCBA) and was a board member from 2005-07. She has also been a board member for the SJCL Alumni Association and really enjoyed being president and planning the holiday celebration for the Marjaree Mason Center. Michelle also sat as general counsel for Fresno Women's Network from 2002-03. Michelle has also been busy serving on the Bankruptcy Clerk's Office Attorney Advisory Committee and the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees (NABT). When they can, the family enjoys going to Shaver Lake and Huntington Lake, and visiting relatives in L.A. and Florida. Rich and Michelle also enjoy wine tasting in Napa and Paso Robles, and getting away to Maui whenever they can.

Michelle has many fond SJCL memories. Although, she also remembers the sleep deprivation of being a wife and mother to kids ages 3 and 5 at the time, and law student. "It seems incredible that ten years have gone by since graduation; it seems like only yesterday", she stated. "I was part of the lucky class of 1999 that started at SJCL when it was located in a strip mall, and then moved to the beautiful campus in Clovis. What a wonderful change that was! Whenever I reminisce about law school, I always think of Dean Jan Pearson and how instrumental she was in my success. I remember thinking that Jan truly treats every student as if he or she was her own, and how she devotes her life to ensuring the students' success. After attending undergraduate school at The Ohio State University, where 60,000 students lived on campus and classes had up to 3,000 people, I am truly thankful to have had the personal experience of attending SJCL."

Brad Stevens

Brad is a Staff Legal Counsel for the California Correctional Peace Officers Association where he started as a clerk and Hearing Representative two years before graduation. Brad represents state correctional officers, counselors, parole agents, medical technical assistants, and peace officers of the California Youth Authority in employee disciplinary matters and contract arbitration, and is now expanding into other employment law areas.

Brad is happy to have celebrated his 20th wedding anniversary with Christine on January 4th. Christine is still hard at work at Fresno Unified protecting the financial resources of the district. Daughter, Alyssa, is now 15 and looking forward to driver's education. She is a sophomore at Clovis High School and an accomplished water polo player and swimmer. Son, Joshua, is now 11 years old and in the sixth grade. Joshua plays trumpet and piano very well (Brad does not know where that comes from; he can't

even play the radio). After wrestling, shot-put, and cross country, Joshua has developed an interest in water polo and swimming.

Brad and Christine have stayed busy by focusing on improvements to a home in Clovis where they moved 6 years ago. When they are not working or puttering around the house, they travel, mostly for the kids activities. The family has been to Atlanta twice since graduation to see family and made several trips in California for water polo tournaments. Brad plays golf, and after taking some time away from the game due to work, is back to playing weekly, and weakly.

Brad has served briefly on the board of directors for a local grass-roots delinquency prevention organization and learned delinquency prevention is a hard sell to supporters. He was also active in the Awana youth program at church.

Brad's memories from SJCL include the look on Professor Purvis' face when he asked about the "other deviant acts" mentioned in *Bowers v. Hardwick*. Brad remembers Kim sitting in the back of contracts at the old campus wearing a gorilla costume because it was cold. He remembers debating his conservative viewpoints about society with Laurie Mitchell and realizing if you go far enough to the extreme, the outcomes start to resemble one another. When Brad worked at juvenile hall he warmly remembers sitting in the back of Juvenile Courts talking with Elizabeth O'Neill about the mark her son, Larry, had left on the juvenile courts. Brad also recalls the tireless effort of the first year instructors - Jan, Rich, Larry, and Denise- pulling out all the stops to get everyone through first year if at all possible, and the consoling they offered when it didn't work out. Brad is happy to say SJCL provided him an opportunity to become a lawyer, but more importantly, the people made an important mark on him as a person.

Every day I am amazed at the connections we make with so many of you who are willing to give back to SJCL, despite the economic hardships our nation faces.

I am so grateful to all of you who have taken the time to come and show your support at several school events including, the Donor Wall reception, Race Judicata/Elizabeth O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Pancake Breakfast, and the Coram Nobis Redress panel. We look to your continued support at this year's 2009 Barrister's Ball being held on May 2nd, where we will celebrate the school's 40th anniversary and honor our founders, Judge Oliver Wanger and Mr. John Loomis, Esq.

Spring is in the air and that means your **CLASSathon** annual fund letter will be arriving shortly. We hope you will take the time to make a gift in honor of our 40th anniversary as we strive to provide 40 more years of excellent legal education! Very shortly you may receive a phone call from a friendly law student seeking your support during this year's Spring phone-a-thon. Please take the time to chat with them and see what's going on at your alma mater, while helping us meet our goal of \$50,000 to the Annual Fund. You may be able to impart some of your own law school day's wisdom on them in the process.

Here's to making 2008-2009 an amazing year of giving!

With Regards,



Robin Leppo
Director of Institutional Advancement

8/1/09 - 3/20/09

Total Contributions

(All funds to date)

\$75,388

Total Annual Fund Contributions

(To date)

\$20,285

2009 Annual Fund Goal

\$50,000

2009 Donors

December 10, 2008 – March 20, 2009

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SAVE THE DATE

San Joaquin College of Law's
2ND Annual

Barrister's Ball

Dinner & Dance
Saturday, May 2, 2009
6:30PM

Fresno Art Museum
2233 N First Street

In celebration of our 40th anniversary
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For more information visit www.sjcl.edu
or **call 559/323-2100**
Tickets: \$100 per person
Table reservations & sponsorships available

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San Joaquin College of Law has recently been made aware that some of the early graduating class diploma's have fading name and signature lines. We are no longer using hand signed diplomas, they are now printed, therefore, more durable. If you have a faded diploma SJCL is offering you a replacement diploma "on us."

To request your complimentary replacement diploma, please contact:

Joyce Morodomi,
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