



Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

Volume XXI, Number 4

December 2010

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New Members Named to SJCL Hall of Fame

San Joaquin College of Law welcomed three new inductees in the Fourth Annual Alumni Hall of Fame Reception and Induction, including a judge, a commissioner, and a district attorney.

Friends, family, and fans of the inductees and SJCL gathered for the celebration at the Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse on October 28th. The event was co-hosted by SJCL and the Fresno County Bar Association, and sponsored by McCormick, Barstow, Sheppard, Wayte & Carruth, LLP.

All three inductees were chosen based on their high standards of ethics, professional competency, and achievements which have brought recognition and honor to San Joaquin College of Law. Master of Ceremonies Hal Bolen noted the ferocity of the competition for induction into the Alumni Hall of Fame. This year's inductees include:

Honorable Nancy A. Cisneros

As she took to the podium to collect her plaque, Commissioner Cisneros gave praise to SJCL, saying "the education I received was outstanding, the friendships I made everlasting."

Meanwhile, Hall of Fame Alumna Kathy Hart had high praise for Cisneros, noting "She never loses her optimistic vision or her voice of reason. She has a special, charitable view of humanity that is not shared by most of us. She believes everyone can succeed, and she believes that everyone – no matter how despicable they appear to the rest of us – has a heart of gold. I admire her unflinching optimism in the goodness

of human nature and her tireless and patient efforts to be both judge and life coach to the parade of needy defendants who daily appear before her."

Judge Hilary Chittick echoed that sentiment, saying it was hard to express how much Judge Cisneros meant to the participants in the Drug Court. At Drug Court graduation there would be tears and hugs with many participants saying that Judge Cisneros had changed their lives. She said thousands of people come through Drug Court and Judge Cisneros treats each one like they were the only one there.

Commissioner Cisneros retired from the Fresno County Superior Court in

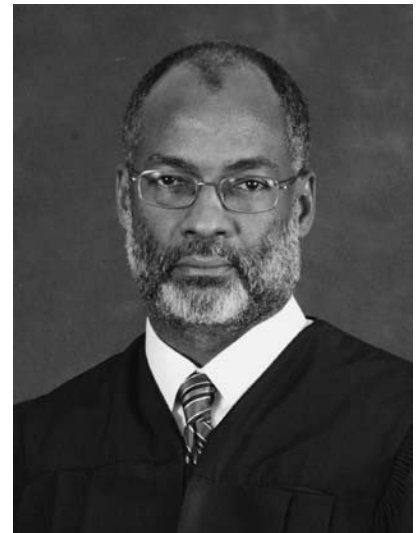
See [Hall of Fame](#) page 15



Honorable Nancy A. Cisneros



Phil Cline



Honorable Alan Simpson

Happy Holidays to all!

SJCL ends the year with so many exciting things happening and the promise of even more exciting things to come. I hope the holidays and the new year bring as many wonderful things to all the SJCL community.

There are so many projects SJCL would like to undertake in the new year – projects that are win-win-win. They would help students, help SJCL, and help the San Joaquin Valley community. There is so much need in our Valley. SJCL would like to develop a clinic to address some of this need.

One possibility would be assistance to abused women. The Marjaree Mason Center is considering opening a shelter in Clovis. The women in that shelter will be in desperate need of legal help and most will have no financial ability to obtain it. Marjaree Mason has some resources to assist them, including generous volunteer attorneys, but the need always outstrips the resources available. What if SJCL could operate a clinic to offer services to those women, both for Temporary Restraining Orders and/or for any follow up legal assistance needed? This would be a wonderful public service. The FIRST win.

Legal education curriculum is moving rapidly towards greater emphasis on practical skills. Many SJCL students work as interns or law clerks during their legal education. In addition, SJCL offers a panoply of practice courses, including writing courses, Pre-Trial Civil Litigation, Civil Trial Practice, Advanced Criminal Law, Criminal Trial Practice,

and Mediation. In a clinic, however, students would put those skills into actual practice. A classroom component would permit more advanced training as well as student discussion of effective/ineffective techniques. This would be a powerful means of improving graduates' skills. The SECOND win.

To create this type of a clinic, SJCL would have to have an additional full-time faculty member to train and supervise the students, as well as teach. This individual would have to have a passion to create the clinic and mentor students.

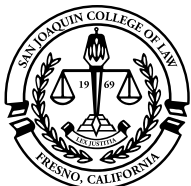
The THIRD win is for the school itself. With the solid bar results of this November, SJCL is very close to satisfying the American Bar Association standard for bar passage. That standard says that for three of the last five graduating classes, 75% of the graduates must have passed the state's bar examination, regardless of the number of attempts. In fact, the classes of 2008 and 2009 have met that standard with the class of 2010 close after only one attempt. Having met that, the greatest barrier to SJCL attaining ABA accreditation is the lack of a sufficient number of full-time faculty. In addition, most ABA schools have at least one community clinic. Creation of a Family Violence Clinic, for example, and the addition of the full-time faculty

member to shepherd it would be another positive step in that direction. As graduate David Hogue once said in a Board of Trustees meeting, "You either move forward or you move backward. You never stand still."

We are researching funding potential for this clinic – as well as for clinics on seniors' issues, support to non-profit organizations, and immigration. But we will also need your support. I will be visiting and calling many of you throughout the next year to talk about gifts to the SJCL Annual Fund to help make this happen. I so hope you will be as excited about this win-win-win as I am.

An Aside

The Legacy Luncheons held throughout the last three years for each of the graduating classes (and graduates in Hanford, Merced, and Tulare-Visalia) were a wonderful opportunity to reminisce with so many people. I was overwhelmed by the incredible success SJCL graduates have had in their careers and the diversity of their accomplishments. We plan to start the cycle again in September of 2011 – only this time we will be pulling together graduates who started law school together. So the luncheons will be reunions of entering classes – the people with whom you survived that horrible first year of law school! It should be fun!!!



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SJCL CO-FOUNDER TO BE HONORED



*On the occasion of the presentation of the
French Legion of Honor
to*

*Mr. John Loomis
WWII Veteran*

The pleasure of your company is requested by

*Consul General of France
Romain Serman
San Francisco*

*on Friday, January 14th at 5:30pm
Reception immediately following*

*Clovis Veterans Memorial District Auditorium
808 4th Street, Clovis, CA 93612*

*RSVP to
559-323-2100
jlassley@sjcl.edu*

In Memoriam

Deanna L. Martinez

San Joaquin College of Law mourns the passing of Adjunct Professor Deanna L. Martinez on Friday, November 5, 2010, after a brief, unexpected illness. She is aptly described by Law Coordinator Pat Smith as "a wonderful and dedicated instructor" who will be "deeply missed by all." Professor Martinez taught at SJCL for more than a decade. She was in the process of teaching "The Federal Courts and the Federal System" at the time of her unexpected death at the age of 43. She has also taught "Law Practice Management" at the Law School, and began her years at SJCL teaching in the Paralegal Program.

Professor Martinez received her B.A. from the University of Pacific, Stockton, and her J.D. from Hastings. While at University of Pacific, Deanna was a member of the Debate team with state level recognition. She practiced civil litigation for several years before going to work for the United States District Court, and then on to a position as an Assistant United States Attorney with the Department of Justice.

An education fund has been established for her son. If you would like to make a contribution please contact:

Christopher Conner
Wells Fargo Advisors
559-437-2277

Full-Time Faculty

Justin B. Atkinson, Richard M. Cartier, Christine A. Goodrich, Denise M. Kerner, Janice L. Pearson, Sally A. Perring, Jeffrey G. Purvis, Peter Rooney

Adjunct Faculty

Larry Artenian, Jesse Avila, Art Baggett, Barry Bennett, Alyson Berg, Hristo Bijev, Raquel Birch, Hal Bolen, Andreas Borgeas, Dave Camenson, Chrystine Carvalho, Dan Casas, Hilary Chittick, Lisa Coffman, Jon Conklin, Phil Cronin, Mark Cullers, Matt Farmer, Gregory Gillett, David Guy, Jason Hamm, Shannon Harding, Kathi Kesselman, Stephanie Krause-Cota, Abigail Leaf, Jeremy Lusk, Jeff Manning-Cartwright, Deanna Martinez, Bill McLaughlin, Mark Miller, Hilda Montoy, Dave Mugridge, Doug Noll, Kim Nystrom-Geist, Timothy O'Connor, Rose Safarian, Rene Sample, Gary Sawyers, Mike Sheltzer, Mike Slater, Jacqueline Yates

Spotlight on Adjunct Professors

The hands-on practical engagement in law of our Adjunct Faculty adds a depth and dimension which contribute immeasurably to the education of our students.

By Missy Mckai Cartier, Public Information Officer



Greg Gillett

B.A., UC, San Diego
J.D., UC, Davis

As a general practitioner and mediator with the Gillett Law Office in Porterville, Professor Gillett brings a hands-on view of current trends in Business Law. He says he sees the effects of the economic downturn manifested in an increasing number of start-up businesses who find they hold contracts which investors or suppliers are either unwilling or unable to fulfill. While he stands prepared to “litigate, negotiate, or mediate to try to satisfy both sides,” he adds amicable resolution “has never been such a good option” as it is now. That’s because many of those defaulting on contracts are simply falling on hard times, and they will still be

around and open for business when good times return. He believes in a small community like Porterville, every business knows it will be working with the same people for decades to come and understands it’s unwise to burn bridges.

Following Gillett’s graduation from law school, he served as President of the Board of El Futuro Credit Union as a way to give back to his community. In addition, he serves on the governing board of the Porterville Unified School District. In law school, Professor Gillett served as the vice president of the Law School Association and was the Managing Editor of the UC Davis Journal of International Law and Policy.

Professor Gillett refuses to define his teaching style, adding he tries to develop that by assessing the needs and size of each class. However, he does try to carry a moral message to each potential attorney that they should be connected to their community and its needs. In his words, “It’s important to be a public citizen.” Just as he demonstrates that belief through both words and actions, he also demonstrates his belief in the value of education.

Professor Montoy combines her 20 years working in the Fresno City Attorney’s Office, including more than a decade as City Attorney, with more than a decade of private practice focusing on municipal law, culminating with the opening of her own law firm in 2009. She currently represents public agencies in areas ranging from governance and contracts to public works, land use, CEQA, impact fees, labor relations, and more.



Hilda Cantu Montoy

B.A. Stanford University
J.D. Stanford Law School

Despite her demanding schedule, Professor Montoy joins the Adjunct Faculty for spring, explaining “for a very long time, I have wanted to be engaged in some way with SJCL, which is a great community resource.” She believes knowledge about municipal law is useful in several areas of practice, adding that students entering her class should know “municipal law is vast and that the class is intended as a good overview to specific areas students may want to pursue such as constitutional law, land use, environmental law, (and) labor relations.”

Professor Montoy brings not only experience, but also perspective to this area of law. She says it has changed since she began her practice in that “the number and complexity of laws has grown exponentially.” As for the current challenges in municipal law, she believes there’s no doubt many are driven by a dearth of dollars. “They include aging infrastructure such as roads, waste water treatment plants, and water wells; the inability to provide quality of life amenities such as parks; unfunded liabilities such as with retirement benefits; a concerned workforce; and the unwillingness of electors to approve funding.”

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Rosemary McGuire Appointed to the Bench

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has appointed SJCL Alumna Rosemary T. McGuire (Law '94) to a judgeship in the Fresno County Superior Court.

By Missy Mckai Cartier, Public Information Officer

The judgeship was created by the conversion of a court commissioner position earlier this year. McGuire says she had been hoping for the appointment for the past couple years, but it was still a shock when the call came.

Since her graduation from SJCL, McGuire has worked for essentially the same law firm, now Weakley, Arendt and McGuire, LLP. The Clovis resident became a partner in 2001. Her practice has been primarily focused on representation of business, religious, and public entities, including child protective services liability, police liability, and civil rights litigation. While she says she is “thrilled” and her husband is “ecstatic” over the appointment, she believes it will be difficult on her partners, adding they are both partners “and good friends.”

That partnership/friendship with Jim Weakley has now lasted 28 years.

Meanwhile, the announcement didn't seem to slow the work load for that partnership; the morning after the Governor's announcement, McGuire was in depositions in Southern California while her firm fielded an avalanche of congratulatory calls and e-mails, including those from SJCL. However, juggling seems to be a skill she learned long ago; she worked fulltime while attending law school and tending to her husband and two children.

She says she is honored to take her place on the bench among the other judges, adding she has “a lot of admiration for them.” She also has some advice for students at SJCL, advising them to “set goals and work hard. It will happen!”



Rosemary McGuire
Class of 1994

Alumna to Head State Agency

Diana Dooley has been named by Governor-elect Jerry Brown to head the state Health and Human Services Agency.

By Missy Mckai Cartier, Public Information Officer

Dooley, who is currently president and CEO of the California Children's Hospital Association, is no stranger to the incoming Governor; she served as Legislative Secretary and Special Assistant to the governor during his previous administration from 1975 to 1983.

In a press release from the Governor's Office, Dooley says she is humbled by the opportunity. “In these difficult times, it's more important than ever to manage our health and social programs with efficiency and a sense of compassion. And that's my commitment in taking this position.”

According to the website HealthyCal, Dooley takes on a tough job in tough times, “managing the agency that runs health and social services for the state's poorest residents at a time when resources are pinched, federal stimulus funds are about to disappear and the state is charged with implementing the new federal health reform.”

Over the years, Dooley has served on the Executive Committee of the UC Merced Board of Trustees, the Maddy Institute Board of Directors, and the California Historical Society Board of Trustees. She is also a past president of Planned Parenthood, the Visalia Chamber of Commerce, and the Central California Futures Institute.



Diana Dooley
Class of 1995

Got MCLE?



By Joan Lassley, *Alumni Liaison*

Alumni Association Board Secretary, Nitza Coleman, along with alumni Roger Wilson and Robert Abrams put on a great free MCLE program on November 6th this year for over 50 Alumni Association members.

This year we had the pleasure, in the first hour, of Judge Houry Sanderson presenting a section on Ethics, while the topic of Substance Abuse was presented by Ernest Albert Benck Jr. The attendees reported that these were very informative.

During the second hour Judge Donald Franson presented Discovery – State and Federal (including E-Discovery) – while Trial Preparation was presented by Mark Broughton. We received great comments about the content of these sessions.

In the final hour Judge Kent Hamlin presented Criminal Law –Trends, Special Allegations & Sentence Enhancements, while Family Law – Collaborative and Mediation was presented by Julie Hicks. These sessions were informative and offered our legal community the fulfillment of their hours. Many other legal community members joined us for these sessions for a nominal fee. Special thanks to Kasi Welte MCLE Coordinator for tracking the attendees and filing the attendance and to the SJCL students who volunteered Tommy Ross, Ryan Denning, Claire Tuttle and Bill Klomhaus.

Nitza garnered great support from other board members: Brande Gustafson, Marcie Howk-Downing and Scott Jones. Thanks to all attendees for joining us.

Senior Law Day

The San Joaquin College of Law Alumni Association would like to thank the presenters for the 8th Annual Senior Citizens' Law Day.

By Joan Lassley, *Alumni Liaison*

On Saturday, November 13, 2010 the College was filled with over 90 seniors, students and presenters to provide free legal advice and support for our senior citizen's.

Classes in the first session included: Wills and Trusts, Elder Divorce, Remarriage and Prenuptial Agreements, presented by Richard Hemb, Esq. and Susan Hemb, Esq. of Hemb & Hemb, LLP, Public Benefits, including Veter-

ciation Board would like to thank these amazing presenters for their time and commitment to our seniors.

During the break, the Gerontology students from Fresno State through the Castle Keep program presented a poster contest as part of their class. The attendees were asked to vote on the posters and a winner was selected. Marcella Downing, the chairwoman of the event, also would like to thank the SJCL students who helped that day: Daren Stemedel,



ans' Benefits and Social Security was presented by Charles Hunnicutt (VA Representative) and Mang Her (Social Security Administration Representative) while Living at Home – Maintaining Senior Independence was presented by Marcella Downing, Esq. of The Law Office of Howk & Downing, LLP.

During the second section, Wills and Trusts, Financial Abuse Targeting Seniors was presented by Deborah Boyett, Esq. of Walter & Wilhelm Law Group, APC. Conservatorships was presented by Catherine Sharbaugh, Esq. of The Law Office of Catherine Sharbaugh and Identity Theft and Scams was presented by Detective Ryan Swank of the Clovis Police Department. The Alumni Asso-

Libby Hellwig, Sabrina Prindiville, and Alumni Association members: Brande Gustafson, Scott Jones, Nitza Coleman. We would like to extend a special thank you to Jennifer Nuygen-Bui, who works in The Law Office of Howk & Downing, and Kimberly Mayhew for manning the registration table and putting together the packets. Kim also made sure there were plenty of refreshments available for the attendees.

There was a door prize drawing for several porch flag kits provided by the Clovis Veteran's Memorial District and special thanks to the staff at the Clovis Senior Center for their assistance in spreading the word about the event.

Christmas Party for the Marjaree Mason Center

The landing of eight tiny reindeer on the roof of San Joaquin College of Law was as quiet as a snowfall, but there was no mistaking the thunderous entrance of Santa Claus (Rick Horowitz, Law '06) at the 17th annual SJCL Alumni Holiday Party for the residents of the Marjaree Mason Center.

By Joan Lassley, *Alumni Liaison*

The jolly old Elf's heavy boots pounded up the stairway, accompanied by the bellow of "Ho, Ho, Ho!" and the wild chorus of sleigh bells. But that was nothing compared to the bowl-him-over greeting from dozens of ecstatic children who had been warmed up for Santa's arrival by several members of the Clovis High School choir accompanied by their director, Mark Lanford, who strummed the guitar to favorite Christmas carols.

The party is held in secret each year due to security concerns for residents of the shelter, but there was no secret on the faces of children when it came to their delight in receiving their gifts. Many thanks to those SJCL staff and alumni who volunteered their time or donated for gifts to light up the season for these

little ones! Special thanks to this year's chair, Judy Rogers and to our shoppers, Kim Mayhew, Nitza Coleman, Carey Hartsock, and Teresa Petty. Helping to keep the children fed, having drinks in their hands, taking pictures with Santa, assembling toys and lending a hand were Brande Gustafson, Dede Agrava, Robert Abrams, Roger Wilson, Nitza Coleman, John and Carey Hartsock, Kerry Prindiville, Scott Jones, Joan Lassley, and Joyce Morodomi, her mother Kay, who made a hat for each child.

KMPH's own Kopi Sotiropulis was the life of the party as he engaged the children with words of encouragement about their schooling and personally handed each child their gift, fitted them with a hat and sat them on Santa's lap for the treasured photo.



SOME OF SANTA'S HELPERS (L-R): **Kopi Sotiropulos, John Hartsock, Kerry Prindiville, Staff, Carey Hartsock, Scott Jones, Dede Agrava, Brande Gustafson, Bob Abrams, Roger Wilson, Nitza Coleman, and seated Judy Rogers.**

As another year draws to a close and we prepare for the holidays, thanks are in order to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of a few special Alumni.

Thank you to Board Member Kevin Hansen for his efforts to make this year's Hall of Fame ceremony yet another success. This fall's Got MCLE event was great thanks to the hard work of Board Members Nitza Coleman and Roger Wilson, and Alumnus Bob Abrams along with the talents of an all-star cast of presenters. Alumna Marcella Dowling-Howk, Kimberly Mayhew, and Board Member Nitza Coleman combined to make the Senior Citizens' Law Day one of the most successful ever.

Fellow Board Member Brande Gustafson has had a hand in nearly every event, providing support, enthusiasm and leadership. A special thank you is due outgoing board member Judy Rogers. She will be missed after her many years service. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the tireless efforts of Joan Lassley. I thank you one and all.

I hope you were able to attend one or more of the events your Alumni Association sponsored this year. If so, I am grateful for your support. But if you have not taken advantage of what we have to offer, I challenge you to consider being a part of something special. Become involved with your Alumni Association; you will not regret it.

Finally, in this my last term as Alumni Association President, I want to thank my fellow members of the Board of Directors, the staff and faculty at SJCL, and the many Alumni who pitch in to help and those who take the time to write to me with ideas, suggestions, and criticisms. As always, if there is something you think that the Alumni Association should be doing, let us know. I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming activities.

Sincerely,
Scott Jones (Law '07)
2009-10 Alumni Association President

Alumna Among Top Ten Professional Women

For Linda Richardson (Law '95), the feeling of gratitude and joy came long before the October 21st luncheon hosted by the Marjaree Mason Center, honoring the 2010 Top Ten Professional Women.

By Missy Mckai Cartier, Public Information Officer

Linda says she was overwhelmed when she heard Irene Zupko, a coworker at Central California Legal Services, had nominated her for the award. Zupko had good reason for that nomination. Richardson has worked for CCLS for the past decade, carrying an incredible case load, but always managing to find time to squeeze in emergency cases. She is also a member of the Fresno County Domestic Violence Roundtable, trains volunteer attorneys for pro bono work with domestic violence victims through Project First Step, spent six years mentoring women freshly released from prison through Volunteers in Parole, and currently works with the Samaritan Women of the Fresno Rescue Mission.

Still, it was her heart and humility which seemed to shine the brightest at

the induction banquet. As Master of Ceremonies Liz Harrison and Dale Yurong noted, Richardson believes the challenges she faces each day “are mere inconveniences” compared to the challenges faced by her clients. Just prior to the luncheon, she noted the honor is very motivating, but it’s “like icing on the cake, because I love what I do.”

This is not the first time in the 27 year history of the Top Ten Professional Women and Top Business Award Ceremony where San Joaquin College of Law has had a connection. Previous winners include SJCL Dean Janice Pearson, Mio Quattraro (Law '74), Fresno County

District Attorney Elizabeth Egan (Law '95), Fresno County Supervisor Susan Anderson (Law '87), SJCL Adjunct Professor the Honorable Hilary Chittick, and SJCL Adjunct Professor the Honorable Denise Whitehead.



Linda Richardson (left) is congratulated by SJCL Alumni Liaison Joan Lassley after being honored by the Marjaree Mason Center as one of the 2010 Top Ten Professional Women.

Alumni Win Champions of Justice Awards

Congratulations to the Honorable Kimberly Nystrom-Geist (Law '92) and Lazaro Salazar (Law '03), winners of Central California Legal Services “2010 Champions of Justice” Awards! The awards honor individuals who have labored to improve access to justice.



Judge Nystrom-Geist received the Judicial Award for her focus on making the courts more user-friendly for self-represented litigants, including seniors and dependent adults. Since her appointment to the bench in 2005, she has created weekly elder abuse calendars, meaning those scheduled for such hearings are not left waiting for hours as other family law cases wind their way through the court. In addition, as the Family Law Presiding Judge, Nystrom-Geist is lauded for her close work with the CCLS Elder Abuse Prevention Project.



Lazaro Salazar was named “2010 Champion of Justice” in the category of Attorney/Law Firm. While he has worked closely with the Mexican Consulate on immigration matters for nearly a decade, he has also spent the last three years working with CCLS and other organizations to provide free consultation to those seeking citizenship. In one year alone, those collaborative efforts offered naturalization screenings for more than 2,500 people.

Legacy Luncheons



HANFORD – (L-R): SJCL Advancement Director **Robin Leppo**, **Alicia Wrest** (Law '10), **Jonette Montgomery** (Law '03), **Ella Floresca** (Law '04), **Michael Dias** (Law '93), Dean **Janice Pearson**, **Thomas Snyder** (Law '82), **Honorable Donna Tarter** (Law '90), **Commissioner Jerry DeMelo** (Law '95), and **William Parry** (Law '98).
ALSO ATTENDING BUT NOT PICTURED: **Jeff Levinson** (Law '91), **Robin Hall** (Law '07), and **Steven Dias** (Law '07).



MERCED – (L-R): **James Cipolla** (Law '94), Dean **Jan Pearson**, **Honorable Mark Bacciarini** (Law '98), **Margaret Shainberg** (Law '93), **Geraldine “Gerry” Brown** (Law '79), Dean of Academic Affairs **Sally Perring**, **Carmen Ramirez** (Law '09), **Eloise Kelsey Souders** (Law '10), **Susan Albertoni** (Law '95) and **Sean McLeod** (Law '00).



VISALIA – SEATED (L-R): **Monica Bermudez** (Law '10), Dean **Janice Pearson**, **Delilah Schuller** (Law '98), **Shani Jenkins** (Law '98), and **Barbara Greaver** (Law '92).
STANDING (L-R): **Ian Marty** (Law '99), **David Rendahl** (Law '95), **Carla Khal** (Law '93), **Wendy Sedillo** (Law '10), **Kathy Chandler** (Law '94), **Tim Rote** (Law '96), **Nancy Jenner** (Law '89), Dean of Academic Affairs **Sally Perring**, **Phil Cline** (Law '78), **Kathryn Mackie** (Law '00), **Nick Schuller** (Law '98), **Crystal Sullivan** (Law '92), **Peter Cowper** (Law '88), and **Leland Sterling** (Law '74).
ALSO ATTENDING BUT NOT PICTURED: **Steven Alfieris** (Law '97).

SJCL Celebrates 31 Bar Passers

It's hard to find a gathering of more genuinely ecstatic people than at the traditional Champagne Reception for San Joaquin College of Law Bar Passers.

By Missy Mckai Cartier, Public Information Officer

The November 22nd reception for the July bar passers was no exception! Twenty-three of the 31 bar passers turned out to be toasted, hugged, celebrated, congratulated, and photographed by family, friends, classmates, and SJCL alumni, professors, administrators, and staff members. One Bar Passer even picked up Dean Jan Pearson and carried her down the hall in a victory lap celebration!

SJCL Regulatory Compliance Officer Gwen Watt had an unusually big reason to smile; her daughter, Carey Hartsock, was among the 31 Bar Passers. Hartsock recalled punching in her ID code the Friday night the results were released and seeing she had passed. Her husband wanted to push the computer's "refresh" button, but Hartsock, unjustifiably worried that the result might not reappear, screamed, "No! Print it first!"

Meanwhile, that same Friday night was a high traffic time on SJCL's Facebook page, as Bar Passers or friends checked in to announce they were now an "Attorney at Law!" That single thread received 43 comments and had been seen nearly 1,400 times by the time the Champagne Reception rolled around the following Monday night.

Fellow Bar Passer Jon Rooker spent part of the evening contemplating what should happen to his Bar Review books, noting he felt they should not just be dumped, but executed somehow, perhaps by firing squad. Rooker took the



FRONT ROW (L-R): **Heather Pietroforte, Wendy Aguilar, Karen Ray, Jessica Weatherly,** and **Brandon Ormonde.**

MIDDLE ROW (L-R): **Pamela Elliott, Jon Rooker, Ron Weber, Monica Thissen, Aaron Aguirre, Shara Tirapelle,** and **Naser Nekumanesh.**

BACK ROWS (L-R): **Monica Bermudez, Wendy Sedillo, David Ibarra, Brandon Collet, Amanda Bishop, Devika Choudhury, Carey Hartsock, Pauline Seiler, John Migliazzo, Alicia Wrest,** and **Joy Dockter.**

ALSO PASSING BUT NOT PICTURED: **Laura Bragg, Christopher Foin, Jesse Fretwell, Frank Kocs, Michael Parent, Jonathon Petty, Gladys Rodriguez,** and **Eloise (Kelsey) Souders.**

Bar three times before he passed, and noted he would keep all three of his Bar I-D cards as trophies, although the first two would serve to keep him humble in the coming years.

While the coming years will likely bring further accolades for this group of bar passers, the past already has been studied with honors; more than half have won various scholarships, including Naser Nekumanesh, who counts this year's George Hopper Memorial Scholarship among several he has earned.

For other Bar Passers, this accomplishment sets the tone not only for the fu-

ture, but for future generations. Monica Bermudez is the first from her family to graduate high school; her preteen daughter is now already looking at law school. Fellow Bar Passer Monica Thissen is the first in her family to have any college experience. Her husband, Patrick Bennet, says she felt she "was the underdog." So does he feel her passing the bar sets the tone for their teenage children? "Big time."

The first time bar pass rate for the Class of 2010 stands at more than 62%, but the State Bar has yet to release the official number as Inter Alia heads to press.

Sneak Peak of the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review's Twentieth Volume

The Twentieth Volume is gearing up to be a very special year in San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review's history! The volume will display a commemorative cover, professional articles, as well as small publications written by the Editorial Board and many student-written Comments.

By Rachel A. Cartier, *Notes and Comments Editor*

Current law review candidates have the editorial board, faculty advisers and fellow candidates very excited as they are in the midst of submitting their final drafts. Candidates' hard work has paid off, resulting in six unique, timely, well-written Comments. Here is a sneak peak!

Christina Widner recommends a new regulation for puppy mills that takes into account current state and federal regulations as well as addresses the concerns set forth by Governor Schwarzenegger, when he vetoed a similar proposed California Assembly Bill in 2009.

Chester Walls analyzes the lack of federal regulation of wastewater reuse in the United States and argues that a congruent national policy that allows and encourages alternative sources for water, namely treated wastewater, to be used will help the agricultural community secure a safe, reliable supply of water for years to come.

Tim Bartell introduces a legislative recommendation for raw milk regulation that addresses questions of constitutional legitimacy of current raw milk regulation while still accomplishing its intended purpose of keeping consumers safe from the alleged dangers of raw milk consumption.

Michael Shaddix advocates a new government-subsidized program whereby agribusiness employers who utilize federal databases to verify the legitimacy of their employees as well as subject themselves to random and periodic checks for compliance will be deemed "USDA Certified Legal Producers", entitling them to label their products as such, and benefit from a government-sponsored advertising and promotion campaign aimed at increasing demand for these "legally produced" products.

James McCann proposes that the United States adopt one hundred percent duty-

free quota-free market access for all Least Developed Countries as an example to the international community to modify and conclude the Doha Development Agenda, forming it into a legally binding trade agreement.

Sam Brar analyzes the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, and what power is retained by the States, in protecting their own citizens when they suffer adversely from the use or exposure to pesticides.

As always, in every volume of the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review, there is a Professional Article. Each year, at least one Professional Article is needed to publish the journal and to continue our long-standing tradition of providing quality, agricultural legal issues to the legal community. The Twentieth Volume is a tremendous milestone and the Editorial Board hopes to receive many professional submissions.

SJCL Student Wins Hanson Scholarship

By Missy Mckai Cartier, *Public Information Officer*

Congratulations to Cheri-Lynn Wortham, who was awarded the Justice Pauline Davis Hanson Scholarship at the Fresno County Women Lawyers' Annual Dinner on November 19, 2010. Primary criteria for the scholarship include academic achievement, extra-curricular activities, and leadership capabilities. Wortham has soared in all of those areas.

She graduated from junior college with honors, graduated Magna Cum Laude with her B.A. degree in Psychology, and

then earned her M.S. degree in rehabilitation counseling with honors.

During her time at SJCL, she has written a comment for the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* titled *Methamphetamine and Cocaine Manufacturing Effects on the Environment and Agriculture* and later served as the SJALR Notes and Comments Editor.

She has also served as the Case Manager for the SJCL Family Law Mediation Clinic.

Wortham has spent nearly a decade working full time as a rehab therapist for opiate addicts, providing them with life skills and resources to live drug free.

After graduation from SJCL, Wortham hopes to work with underprivileged women and their children. SJCL Alumna Nancy Stegall (Law 96), who presented the award to Wortham, noted "Cheri is amazing and has focused her life on helping others."

“Starting Varsity”

By Missy Mckai Cartier, *Public Information Officer*

“If the Alumni Circle was a high school water polo team, you would be ‘Starting Varsity.’ Who wrote that? It’s the last line of a letter I sent to a San Joaquin College of Law Alumna, thanking her for representing the Law School in a recent media interview. Her expertise, well-reasoned answers, and simple-language explanations demonstrate exactly the highest expectations for such media encounters. This particular media encounter was unique in that the Alumni Circle had never been used for this venue before. There were no previous interviews to hear on the Multimedia page, no previous examples or patterns to follow. Still, her interview was so engaging, her argument so compelling, and her answers came so comfortably that the medium will be using the Alumni Circle again in the future.

There is a group of alumni who continue to blaze the way, who open media doors for this Law School, and who make it look easy for those who follow. The following are some of our “Varsity” players.



The Alumni Circle closes out the year with a dizzying array of topics on the San Joaquin College of Law Roundtable. The host, Fresno Bee columnist Bill McEwen, has done a stellar job of preparing thoughtful questions for his guests on topics ranging from Cyber Intellectual Property with Dan Rogers (Law '08) and Adoption with Nancy Stegall (Law '96), to Foreclosures with Ofra Pleban (Law '96) and Laws Related to Animals with Adjunct Professor Stefanie Kraus-Cota (Law '00). Two of the shows have also given listeners a closer look at the Law School. One interview included a preview of Senior Citizens' Law Day with Marcella Downing (Law '05) and attorney Robert Howk. The

other featured SJCL Professor Sally Per-ring and Fresno Pacific University Professor Duane Ruth Hefflebower on the Co-operative Degree Program, wherein students can simultaneously earn a Juris Doctorate and a Master of Arts in Peacemaking and Conflict Studies.

Many of the topics addressed by Alumni on the SJCL Roundtable came straight from the headlines. James Witherow (Law '87) talked about how the recommendations of the federal deficit reduction commission will affect those planning to receive Social Security. Bob Abrams (Law '08) discussed mortgage fraud perpetrated against those heading into foreclosure and unexpected taxes headed to those who lost their homes this past year. Lazaro Salazar (Law '03) talked about immigration issues, including the “Dream Act,” affecting minors who arrived in this country illegally, but have lived here most of their lives; they include the Fresno State SBA president. Lori Mayfield (Law '94) highlighted the differences between domestic partnerships and marriages at the same time a three-member appeals panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals prepared to decide the Prop 8 question.



Alumni Circle members also responded to requests received at SJCL from reporters for legal commentary on various news stories. KJWL News Director Juanita Stevenson was looking for an attorney to respond to questions of possible civil rights violations after budget cuts forced the closure of roughly half the polling sites in Fresno County. Bob Hirth (Law '96) responded to that call. Meanwhile, Adjunct Professor David Mugridge (Law '85) responded to a call from KMJ reporter Margaret Carrero for comment on a potential case of a mental health patient being denied treatment due to a lack of insurance.

THE BUSINESS JOURNAL
FRESNO | KINGS | MADERA | TULARE
www.thebusinessjournal.com

The Business Journal continues to expand its coverage of legal issues, trends, and attorneys, including interviews with SJCL Alumni Sevag Tateosian (Law '08) and Deborah Boyett (Law '01). Most recently, reporter Clay Moffitt queried SJCL Dean Jan Pearson about new multimedia technology available in Valley courthouses, and her opinion on the evolution of such technology. In addition, “the well-regarded San Joaquin College of Law” is mentioned in the Business Journal’s “Relocate, Fresno County” supplement, which serves as a tool to recruit businesses and professionals to the area.



The SJCL media partnership with the KMJ morning news continues to grow. Robert Wynne (Law '89) joined Ray Appleton for a look at the case against a man charged with the kidnap and sexual assault of an eight-year-old Fresno girl. Appleton also interviewed Benny Barco (Law '07) for a look at a 14-percent national surge in bankruptcy, which translates into a 19-percent jump on the local level. Barco says the numbers could go even higher as unemployed workers find their benefits running out.

Find us on
Facebook®

Events, hundreds of pictures, first word on SJCL Bar passers, previews of media appearances, and more are all packed onto the SJCL Facebook page. Make sure you are on the official SJCL Facebook page (with the photo of the Law School), because interest in SJCL has generated about a hundred “community pages!”

Alumni Profiles

SJCL congratulates our alumni celebrating 10, 20, and 30-year anniversaries in 2010. 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

1980

Barbara St. Louis

Barbara was extremely fortunate to have clerked primarily for Judge Hollis G. Best and Dennis Caeton at the Fresno Superior Court, ultimately as the Supervising Research Attorney from 1980 to 1983. Barbara was honored to serve as a Senior Research Attorney for the Fifth District Court of Appeal for 9 years, working primarily with the Hon. Robert L. Martin, until 1992. After 7 years as an Administrative Law Judge with California's Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, Barbara retired in 1999.

Robert Knight and Barbara were married in 1993. Bob came with adult daughters, grandchildren and now great-grandchildren that complete their life together. In 2001, they moved to a sunny hillside cabin in a redwood forest on the Russian River, expecting they would retire quietly and comfortably to this spectacular and remote spot. Within months, it became essential to fully engage in forest preservation and riverbank issues as these interconnected issues directly impacted the safety of their hillside home. They remain very involved in community and political concerns as well as the local church. The river, forest, and ocean provide them their favorite leisure activities. In the 80's, law school was such a challenge. After a hard-working committee formed the SJCL Alumni Association, it was her privilege to serve as its first President and the first Alumni Trustee on the SJCL Board of Trustees during a crucial time in school's development. Barbara's many fond memories of SJCL include the entire set of eclectic classmates and teachers. From varied and diverse backgrounds, they bonded during those years

of study together and forged lifetime friendships. In retrospect, Barbara will always cherish that time in her life.

2000

Charlotte (Hylton) Konczal

Charlotte is currently a trial attorney with Zurich North America; she practices civil litigation and construction defect defense.

Charlotte is married to Blake Konczal. Charlotte's sons are now young adults: Chad (25) and Shawn (23). Chad works in construction during the day and bartends on weekends. Shawn is attending college where he is majoring in History and Sociology.

Charlotte loves cooking, old movies, and art. She hopes to add traveling as an active part of this list. Currently she and her husband are in the process of remodeling a 1930's Craftsman home (while living there).

Charlotte has many community activities; she is a board member of the Fresno Housing Alliance, Past Secretary and Co-Chair of Creative Fresno, Past Secretary and President of SJCL Alumni Association, and Rogue Festival Venue Manager, and works on the Creative Fresno Mural Project.

In recalling her days at SJCL, Charlotte remembers being one of the unfortunate students in Sally Perring's 2nd year Real Property class whose name Sally knew, so she called on her all the time. She also remembers being frequently hushed by Professor Purvis for talking in his class when it was actually his wife, Susan, and Sara Mirhadi doing the talking.

Kerry O'Brien

Kerry is currently running his own practice in Lakewood, California with an emphasis in workers' compensation, some bankruptcy and estate planning. Kerry is a single parent with a four-year-old son. Most of his family now lives in Scottsdale, Arizona but he does have a sister, Tracy in Fresno. His interests outside of law include family activities and sports.

Kerry has special memories of all the wonderful friends he made at SJCL, both students and faculty.

David Soldani

David is a Senior Associate in the Fresno office of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo, a law firm consisting of 135 attorneys in 7 offices. He represents California school districts and private businesses in a variety of transactional and litigation matters.

David and his wife, Rachel, celebrated their 15th anniversary this year. They have four boys ages 11, 8, 6, and 3. The oldest was born during his second year at SJCL. In fact, he remembers leaving Rene Sample's Civil Trial Practice class to go to the hospital.

David regularly gives presentations to local and statewide organizations on a number of topics, including construction law, solar power purchase transactions, the Brown Act and election and board governance issues.

David enjoys playing tennis and attending his children's sporting events and school activities. He is involved in his church and with the Boy Scouts of America.

David remembers studying for various exams with David Moreno and Shelley Pepper and working on the Law Review. He always enjoys running into SJCL alumni in court and in other settings around town.

Thank you for your support!

October 1, 2010–December 10, 2010

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You deserve to be properly recognized for your contributions, and we strive for 100 percent accuracy. If we have made an error, please contact the Advancement Department at 559-323-2100 or email kwelte@sjcl.edu with corrections. Please note our new format of recognizing donors will include those donors and gifts received during the period between each Inter Alia publication instead of an annual cumulative list. Due to the generosity of our donors, we are unable to report cumulatively on one page anymore.

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Make your mark as an Alumni Ambassador

With the success of the Class Agents and 40th anniversary planning committee this year, SJCL would like to harness the energy of those groups and expand upon it. The primary purpose of this committee will be to build upon the long-term relationships with our alumni and develop ambassadors to champion SJCL's mission, enhance participation in law school activities and increase overall financial support. This group will be utilized to provide input, planning and feedback of fundraising efforts, events, and asked to be "ambassadors" of the law school to the legal community and the community at large.

Meetings will convene quarterly throughout the year (monthly during peak planning periods) and will be limited to 1-2 hours after work.

Join us for our first Alumni Ambassador Meeting

January 20, 2011, 5:30pm at SJCL.

For more information or if you plan on attending:
contact **Robin Leppo** or **Joyce Morodomi**
at **559-323-2100** or rleppo@sjcl.edu

Hall of Fame (Continued From Page 1)

March 2010, having served the Court in that position for 22 years. During her years on the bench, her assignments included Juvenile Dependency, Family Support, Family Law, Drug Court, Traffic, and Misdemeanors. She served in Drug Court for 8 years, where she developed her passionate interest in rehabilitative justice, especially for drug addicts receiving treatment rather than incarceration. Her impact on the many individuals who appeared before her in Drug Court was recognized by a Deodar Cedar planted in her honor in Courthouse Park.

Commissioner Cisneros received the Justice Pauline Hanson Award from Fresno County Women Lawyers and the Champion of Justice Award for a judicial officer from Central California Legal Services. In 1997, she was named the Commissioner of the Year by both the California Department of Social Services and the National Child Support Enforcement Association. She has been recognized for her work on numerous boards and commissions and remains a member of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

Phil Cline

As he accepted his plaque and place in the SJCL Alumni Hall of Fame, Phil Cline took a moment to reminisce about his family's humble roots, moving to the Valley during the Depression. He grew up in Farmersville, and credits SJCL for giving him, in his words, "an opportunity to be something different from what I was set up to be." After graduation from law school, Cline noted with glee that he felt highly qualified to take on the graduates of any other law school in the country, adding he would pull up to the courthouse in his Volkswagen, "go up against the Harvards and Yales, and just beat them like a drum!"

Nick Schuller (Law '98), a Deputy D.A. under Phil Cline, had high praise for his boss. "Phil Cline's record of accomplish-

ment clearly reflects the dedication and leadership worthy of induction to the SJCL Alumni Hall of Fame. He has served honorably and dedicated his career to protecting the community of Tulare County. Phil Cline is a prosecutor's prosecutor. He carries out his duties with determination to get the job done, resolve, and concern for his employees. He's an aggressive leader with creative administrative skills that produce results. Most important, Phil has taught me a lot about what it takes to be an effective prosecutor. I consider it a high honor to serve under his direction at the Tulare County District Attorney's Office. Without question the instant recognition is well-deserved."

Cline has dedicated his legal career to public service. His career has been spent as a prosecutor in the Tulare County District Attorney's Office. He started there as a student law clerk, working his way up the ranks from a line prosecutor doing misdemeanor and felony trials to supervisory positions, including specializing in homicide and death penalty prosecutions for seven years.

In 1992, he was elected District Attorney of Tulare County, a position to which he has been re-elected five times, serving a total of 18 years. Among his many noteworthy accomplishments, Cline created the State's first rural Crime Program designed to protect the agriculture industry from crime and potential threats to the food supply. The Program consists of County task forces of detectives and prosecutors, coordinated through D.A. Cline's office and covering the entire Central Valley.

Honorable Alan Simpson

The Honorable Alan Simpson gave a nod to the Law School as he was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame, noting one of its goals is "to provide opportunity without having to leave the Fresno area." Judge Simpson says he always wanted to be a judge. He

recalls as a small boy being in a courtroom one day with his father, a Sheriff's deputy. He says his father told him to go sit behind the bench. The view left a permanent impression, which he now passes on to young students who tour his courtroom.

His induction into the Alumni Hall of Fame drew praise from elsewhere on the bench. Judge Hilary Chittick said that Judge Simpson, as the Presiding Judge of the Civil Division, is the major reason there is no backlog in Civil, even though the number of cases is up. Past inductee Judge Gary Austin described him as "always helpful, willing to work long hours, and take on any assignment given him gladly – a true team player."

Hall of Fame Alumna Kathy Hart added Judge Simpson "has this ineffable, idiosyncratic, special insight that makes everyone want to hear his opinion. I have always appreciated his special worldview. I don't know quite how to describe it, but like they say about obscenity, 'I know it when I see it.' He is like the bright sunshine that dissolves the stormy clouds of dissent. When I hear him speak, I am transported to the Enlightenment and to the Age of Reason."

The Honorable Alan Simpson graduated from California State University Fresno in December of 1977 with a degree in Political Science. He worked for approximately six months as an eligibility worker for the Fresno County Department of Social Services. He then joined the District Attorney's Office as a Welfare Fraud Investigator.

Judge Simpson was appointed to the Fresno County Superior Court in 2000. He served for three years as the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division. In September of 2004, he joined the Civil Division. He's now served as the Presiding Judge of the Civil Division for the last three years.



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