



Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

Volume XXVI, Number 1

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Professor Cartier's Retirement

"Don't write my obituary. I'm not done yet."

Professor Richard Cartier will retire from SJCL this summer after 30 years of teaching, including 23 as a fulltime faculty member. He has taught more classes and graded more exams than anyone else in the history of the Law School. He will be honored with a reception in the Great Hallway of SJCL from 5:30 to 7:30PM on Friday, April 10th.

Cartier began his teaching career as a teacher with Fresno Unified in 1973, but later began attending law school in the evenings. Upon passing the Bar, he joined June Register at the firm of Register & Cartier, but soon found

he missed the feel of "having a stick of chalk" in his pocket. In 1985, he was hired as an adjunct faculty at SJCL, and became fulltime in 1992. Over the past three decades at SJCL, he has taught Community Property and Civil Procedure. At different times, he offered classes in Family Law, Children & the Law, Comparative Family Law, Family Law Mediation and Mediating Family & Relationship Conflicts.

While many former students can easily parrot his law school lessons, even more remember colorful stories from those days. Many surround the faux battles perpetually waged with fellow professor

Larry Artenian, who disparaged Cartier's diet of "caffeine, nicotine, sugar and grease." Year after year, Artenian would tell his students that Professor Cartier was handing out \$100 checks just for the asking. Cartier says those \$100 giveaways put his retirement in serious jeopardy.

Joking aside, Cartier's contributions to SJCL and the community extend beyond his classroom efforts and antics. He was a member of the steering committee that formed CASA ("Court Appointed Special Advocates") of Fresno County. He was President of the Board of CASA when the first case was assigned.

See Cartier pg 14



You are invited to
Richard Cartier's
 RETIREMENT RECEPTION

April 10, 2015 from 5:30-7:30PM
 San Joaquin College of Law

A First Year Improvement
 Scholarship has been created
 in his honor.

If you would like to contribute to
 this scholarship please contact:
 Kasi Welte at 559/323-2100
 or kwelte@sjcl.edu

I hate writing this particular Dean's Column, although the only difficulty has been keeping it short. Professor Richard Cartier is retiring in early August. If you were a first-year student at any time since August 1992, you took Civil Procedure from Rich Cartier. How very fortunate you were!

Not only does Rich have mastery of the law, but he also has mastery of how to communicate the law to aspiring law students. You may very well have taken Community Property from Rich as well and were doubtless quite happy when that subject appeared on the bar examination.

Rich has always been the most tenacious mentor and advocate for every one of his students. He has been the Chair of the Admissions Committee for years and argued powerfully for prospective students he felt should have the opportunity for a legal education. Once they were admitted, he monitored the progress of every first-year student and spent countless hours counseling them. It is not surprising that he was voted Teacher of the Year by the graduating class six times.

Rich created the Family Law Mediation Center at SJCL. Many SJCL students learned solid mediation skills working in this clinic and many were thrilled with the process

and the results. They experienced another side of the practice of law. Thousands of couples in the community benefited from resolution of their property divisions in a way that supported rather than destroyed their relationships.

Rich also created a pre-admission class entitled *Introduction to Legal Studies*. I believe if students followed the study techniques and attitudes revealed in that class, many more would study successfully. They would study with more profound understanding – study smarter, not harder. Justin Atkinson and I will do our best to follow in Rich's footsteps teaching that free 9-hour class four or five times each summer.

Rich is always willing to take on any task asked of him. Listing them all would be impossible but a few come to mind. He wrote the Faculty Newsletter giving faculty tips and insights on better teaching, based on his background and education in teaching. He served for many years as the Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees. He

chaired the Student Services Committee in SJCL's review of all aspects of its operation over the last two years.

For me, Rich is always sound counsel, with new perspectives on every issue. They are always focused on benefiting SJCL students. I know he isn't disappearing. I know he is cogitating new endeavors in the community, but I will miss him not being here as a wise anchor at SJCL every day. It has been a tremendous pleasure and an honor to work with Rich for so many years.

Please join us in thanking Rich at an informal reception Friday, April 10, 2015 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at SJCL. Of course, Rich declined any major event for the simple reason that it would not help students.

So, instead, we are creating a scholarship in Rich's name and ask for your help in funding it. We want to raise \$25,000 to fund it. A gift to that scholarship fund would be a way to say "Thank you, Rich, for all you have done for SJCL students."

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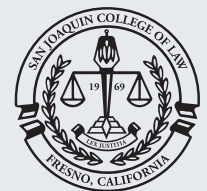
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SJCL Students Win Best Brief at Davis

Congratulations to SJCL students Amanda Kendzora (4L) and Skye Emery (3L) who won first place for “Best Brief” at the Eighth Annual UC Davis Asylum and Refugee Law National Moot Court Competition.



Skye Emery and **Amanda Kendzora** bask in the glory of their first place Best Brief win at UC Davis.

They prepared a brief related to a complex asylum law problem that integrated both domestic immigration law, and international human rights standards for the protection of refugees and asylum seekers. The national moot court competition attracts many top ten ABA accredited schools including New York University Law School (who ranked third for Best Brief), and Columbia Law School (who won the overall competition).

The SJCL team was coached by Professors Jessica Bobadilla and Justin Atkinson. “Amanda and Skye worked very hard to push themselves and our school forward with their great effort and work ethic,” Professor Bobadilla said. “Dean Atkinson and I are very, very pleased with the results, and with the team’s performance at oral argument,” she added.

“We got our individual scores in an email Thursday night,” said Skye, “and we got excited.” With an 84.5, 91 and a 98, their average was 91. They knew that last year’s Best Brief

winners had an average score of 84, but they had no idea how the other teams did.

“The first 20 minutes of the awards ceremony was like being on a roller coaster,” Mandy said. “But I knew we had really internalized all the advice we received, and we felt confident,” she added. Staying relaxed, remaining confident, and enjoying the competition were the keys behind the students’ success. “We learned a lot,” Mandy said. My advice for next year would be to memorize – no notes! And also more emphasis on case law.”

Alumni Kristina Garabedian (Law ’14) and Jesse Molina (Law ’13), both of whom represented SJCL in the Davis competition as law students, assisted in coaching this year.

Anyone interested in representing SJCL next year and continuing this great tradition is encouraged to contact Professor Bobadilla at jbobadilla@sjcl.edu.

2015 Competition Results

Champion

Columbia Law School

Finalist

New York University School of Law

Top Briefs

First Place: **San Joaquin College of Law**

Second Place: University of San Francisco School of Law

Third Place: New York University School of Law

Top Oral Advocates

First Place: Kartik Naram, New York University School of Law

Second Place: Alicia Berenyi, New York University School of Law

Third Place: Rebecca Urquiola, Columbia Law School

Full-Time Faculty

Justin B. Atkinson, Jessica Smith Bobadilla, Andreas Borgeas, Richard M. Cartier, Christine A. Goodrich, Denise M. Kerner, Janice L. Pearson, Gregory Olson, Jeffrey G. Purvis, Peter Rooney, Rose Safarian

Adjunct Faculty

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SJCL JUSTicia RUN is Golden This Year!

The number one question this year was not who won the race, but rather, why the name was changed from Race Judicata to the JUSTicia RUN.



Sadly enough, after 13 years under the Judicata banner, race officials received a letter from a group in Chicago which trademarked the name and wanted a licensing fee for its use this year. Race officials declined, noting the proceeds fund scholarships for students at San Joaquin College of Law along with scholarships through the Sierra Express Challenge Running Club. In addition, the Clovis Police Foundation uses some of the proceeds for its work.

And so, under bright skies and a new banner, hundreds of runners took off through the streets of Clovis and the Old Clovis Trail on February 14th. Running Club members spent the previous night cooking up hundreds of breakfast burritos which were offered to those fresh off the track or those just cheering them on.

Among those running was Sherrie Flynn, an SJCL alumna who was among the originators of the race. Those helping out included a slew of SJCL students, along with SJCL Alumni Association



Sherrie Flynn (Law '05) and Alumni President **Brande Gustafson** (Law '09)

President Brande Gustafson, who has a long history of race support, and Alumnus Frank Nunes, who ran the race in the past but decided to be a sponsor this year while he gets back into shape to run next year.

This year also saw the return of Wakefield Elementary School's "Love in Action" Team. Thirty-nine students, including kindergarteners, boarded the bus in Turlock in the pre-dawn hours

so they could run their hearts out for the third year in a row. Their coach, Maria Montejano, proudly pointed to one five-year-old who took on the 2K walk/run.

"Team Ashar" also showed up again this year, looking for a different sort of win. Team Member Mike Rizzotti says Ashar Deen was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at Fresno State who stayed in the Fresno area after graduation. He married his wife, had a daughter and was expecting their son when he unexpectedly passed in 2012. His old fraternity brothers rallied together and started a fundraiser tied into the JUSTicia RUN. Shirts are made each year and money is raised to deposit into the children's college fund, since college was so important to Ashar. This year, Team Ashar raised \$1,600.

While the proceeds of this year's JUSTicia RUN have not been calculated as this goes to press, the good memories are already in the bank. Thanks to everyone who helped or participated this year!

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NALC Changes Lives

NALC students have been working on a number of cases that changed the lives of many people. The goal is to give the people who are served an opportunity for a better life, with dignity and respect, while being here lawfully.

Those NALC has helped include people from many countries around the globe. NALC students have shined in a number of cases including Student Dushawn Johnson (4L) who helped a father, mother, and three children obtain their green cards after the father came to the United States first, from Syria. He was escaping persecution for being of Armenian Catholic ancestry.

In another case NALC students helped a Nigerian woman who fled her tribe with her husband in fear of having to get

circumcised even after she was pregnant. Students Jacquelin Curry (3L), Tamara Casey (3L), and Melanie Contreras (3L) worked on this asylum case. The students and Professor Bobadilla met with the client and her husband, and the case is now pending.

A nine year old boy from Mexico was represented by Professor Bobadilla in an unaccompanied minor case. Students Sandra Gutierrez (3L) and Leila Alamri-Kassim (3L) accompanied the client in court hearings, and Dushawn Johnson (4L) prepared many documents that

were critical to this case. After one year the child will be able to apply for U.S. residency.

The New American Legal Clinic also helped 142 people naturalize in 2014. Of those clients, 98% passed their interviews the first time. Volunteer attorneys and NALC Professors have gone with clients to their naturalization interviews. We are very thankful to the volunteer attorneys that support NALC, as well as the different community organizations we work with to help serve the Central Valley Community.

FCBA Scholarship Recipient

Leila Alamri-Kassim, a 3rd year law student at San Joaquin College of Law, was recently honored as the 2015 Fresno County Bar Association Scholarship award recipient.

By **Magi Fainer-Towne**, Fresno County Bar Association

Leila has already begun to establish her own stamp on the practice of law and community service. During her tenure at Fresno State, she took the opportunity to be a student organizer on numerous platforms for which she is inspired. Specifically, she worked on Fresno State's Take Back the Night in 2011 as a volunteer coordinator and media spokesperson. In 2011 and 2012, she was the Secretary of Fresno State's Women's Alliance. She was involved in the Women's Studies Brown Bag Series in 2011. She presented at the undergraduate conference on Multi-Ethnic Literature of the Americas in 2010. She also participated in our well-known Kids Day from 2005 through 2010.

As a law student, Leila is a regular volunteer at the SJCL New American Legal Clinic, which offers free legal immigration assistance, including assisting permanent residents apply for U.S. citi-

zenship, helping undocumented crime victims find a path to legal, permanent residency, and working with individuals seeking political asylum. During law school, Leila interned at the Marjaree Mason Center, externed for the Hon. Anthony Ishii, and represented the New American Legal Clinic at the Fresno County Bar Association's 2014 Law Day. At the FCBA's 2013 Law Day, Leila represented the Marjaree Mason Center. As part of the Muslim Student Association, Leila also has worked on the "Send Hope to Ground Zero" program.

Inspired by her work at the New American Legal Clinic, Leila continues to explore avenues to widen her options to pursue a career in Public Interest law. As a first generation U.S. Citizen of Yemeni immigrant parents, Leila is motivated by compassion for those who hope to live and work in the U.S.A.



Leila has not traveled this impressive journey alone. As a youngster, she was encouraged and supported by her parents, Mohamed and Sally Alamri, and graduated as Valedictorian from Selma High School. Leila is married to Mohamed Kassim. Congratulations to Leila and we look forward to her many years of service to the legal community!!

San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review



VOLUME 24 STAFF MEMBERS AND EDITORS (L-R) **Virginia Madrid-Salazar, Jeffrey Castleton, Mandy Kendzora, Editor-in-Chief Sally Noxon Vecchiarelli, Executive Editor Jarrett Rogers, Ryan Petty, Jennifer Oleska, and Megan Brown**
Not pictured: *Production Editor Corina Burchfield, Mao Lee, and Notes and Comments Editor Sarah McNabb*

The *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* is a legal periodical published by the students of San Joaquin College of Law. The *Law Review* provides an objective, national forum for analyzing legal issues affecting our nation's most vital industry – agriculture. The *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* released its first publication in 1990; making it the first student-edited Agricultural Law Review in the nation.

In addition to the prestige and recognition that Law Review membership bestows, it offers a way for each member to begin his or her legal career with the opportunity to practice and hone research and writing skills which are essential to success in the legal community.

Membership in the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* is offered only to those students who have displayed exceptional academic performance or in the alternative, fulfill all requirements of the writing competition held at the end of the spring term. Recognition as a member of *Law Review* is a distinction

achieved by only two to three percent of all law students nationwide. Once a student has earned membership, he/she begins a seven-month rigorous undertaking during which invaluable research, writing, and editing skills are gained as well as a deeper understanding of his/her individual abilities to commit and succeed at an elective academic pursuit. During the process the student delves into a narrowly focused research endeavor, seeking a novel and relevant legal issue to be analyzed from a specific perspective that will influence the legal community and potentially will assist in the legislative process through judicial review. The student Editorial Board, which is composed of students that have been published in previous volumes of the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*, assists the writers throughout the entire process with feedback, editing and camaraderie. At the end of the writing process, each Member submits a final Comment and the student Editorial Board votes on whether or not it will be published. Once published, the writers will have the opportunity to apply to

be on the Editorial Board for the next volume.

The last publication released by the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review, Volume 23, marked a significant transition for the *Law Review*. In this volume, the *Law Review* went completely digital and no longer will be published in a print journal format. The increasing reliance on digital media for nearly all aspects of information, research, news, and entertainment led the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* to join the recent movement by most of the *Law Reviews* throughout the nation to transition to an entirely digital journal. This change also serves to enhance the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review's* commitment to sustainability and reducing paper waste.

If you are interested in reading any of the past 23 volumes of the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*, please visit SJCL's website at www.sjcl.edu/sjalr. Print versions are available to be purchased on Amazon as well.

Chief Financial Officer Celebrates 30th Year

When SJCL's Chief Financial Officer Jill Waller-Randles was hired as a part-time bookkeeper in 1985, SJCL was housed in an office building next to a strip-mall on Shields Avenue. Jill joined a staff of four. The administration included Paralegal Program Director, Library Director, Dean, and Director of Advancement. Jill was hired as the part-time bookkeeper, but the part-time part was short-lived. She realized instantly the job required much more time than that, and then some. "Everyone did everything back then," she said. "We all cleaned, cooked for the Board of Trustee meetings, and shampooed the carpets. Then, as now, the quality of education was the main focus, so we multitasked and made due, broken desks and all."

Jill says no job was too large, or too small. The term "not in the job description" didn't exist. Jill recalls that three days after she was hired, she was handed a paintbrush and told, "We're painting the hallway today!" "I was part of something larger than myself, and I loved it," she said.

Prior to joining SJCL, Jill worked as a teller at a bank and an accountant in a business management firm. She says that she was drawn to accounting because the logic aspect of accounting came naturally to her.

Jill has enjoyed sharing SJCL's growth and milestones through the years. One of the most exciting was when the law school gained WASC accreditation. "I remember Jan jumping up and down in the hallway. I joined her jumping until she said: Okay – now go learn how to do financial aid!" WASC accreditation and the ability to offer financial aid provided the opportunity for many more students to attend law school. As class sizes grew, so did staff and faculty, until it became obvious a larger home was needed.

Jill says she still feels a sense of great pride every time she drives into the parking lot of our beautiful campus and remembers how far we have come. From her original desk with the propped up broken leg, a single computer for the entire school, and a cardboard box credenza, SJCL has blossomed into an impressive and formidable institution.



"You got me good, Joyce!" Jill Waller-Randles said she was truly surprised when long-time pal Joyce Morodomi tricked her into attending a bogus emergency staff meeting so faculty and staff could honor her with a 30th Anniversary Luncheon.

Regardless of the size of the budget, every dollar spent is still scrutinized, every penny accounted for. Even after 30 years, she still finds her job challenging and rewarding. Jill says she is grateful Jan gave her the opportunity to be part of this journey, and is continually inspired by the hard work and dedication of our students. "I'm excited to see where the road will take us next!" she said. Congratulations, Jill!

Professor Kerner Celebrates 25 Years

Professor Denise Kerner's 25th Anniversary was celebrated by faculty and staff with a luncheon of assorted quiche, salad, and decadent cookies from La Boulangerie. As a law Professor who also attended SJCL as a student years ago, Professor Kerner says she feels like the years have flown by. "I remember when I was younger than most of my students; now I'm teaching some of my students' children!" she said. After being presented with a commemorative plaque and gift, Denise reminisced with other "long-timers" on staff about the Shields Avenue campus and the challenges that came with holding class next to a strip mall. One in particular was the traffic noise just feet from the windows. "My office backed up against the street," she said, "and you could hear the cars whizzing by all day long."

She also remembered years when she had 60-70 first-year students in her legal writing class. "Grading all those papers almost did me in, but I've always felt that this was the niche I was meant to fill," she said.

Earning her undergraduate and Master's degrees from Fresno State, Denise graduated from SJCL in 1983. She then spent two years as a Research Attorney for the Fifth District Court of Appeal. After that, she served as a Deputy Fresno City Attorney where she worked with contracts for city departments. She has been a full-time faculty member at SJCL since March of 1990, but has additionally taught aerobics at a local gym for 28 years. "I think more people would exercise if they got paid to do it," she says. Denise is also a talented seamstress who likes to make her own clothes. "Maybe



I'll take a shot at Project Runway one day!" Law professor turned fashionista – sounds like a great story line! Congratulations, Professor Kerner.

SJCL visits the Public Defender's offices

SJCL's Director of Admissions Diane Steele and Alumni Liaison Diane Skouti surprised SJCL Alumni who practice as defense attorneys in the Public Defender's Office, with a visit and box of cookies recently. Defense Attorney Henry Campa Jr. (Law '11) took them on a tour of the maze-like high-rise where every nook and corner, it seemed, housed yet another SJCL grad!



Henry Campa Jr. (Law '11), joined the Public Defender's Office just five months ago. He's already working hundreds of cases.



Eric Christensen (Law '83) is a Senior Defense Attorney celebrating his 31st year in the Public Defender's Office. Eric is currently the lead attorney on his office's only capital case.



Tomas Kunder (Law '12) is another SJCL grad who works as a defense attorney in the Public Defender's Office.



Treanna Garza (Law '13) joined the Public Defender's Office in November, 2014. She is assigned to a felony home court.



Travis Ishikawa (Law '12) joined the Public Defender's Office in August of 2013. Originally interested in tax law, Travis enjoyed his internship in public defense so much, he decided to be a defense attorney specializing in felony law. "Insane caseload. I love it." he says.



D.J. Brickey (Law '09) has been a defense attorney with the Public Defender's Office since 2012. He says he loves working trials, but also enjoys teaching. He's been an adjunct instructor at Fresno Pacific University and Fresno City College for two years.

10th Annual Donor Wall Reception

This year marked the 10th Anniversary of the Annual Donor Wall Reception, recognizing San Joaquin College of Law's most loyal and supportive donors. Ten years ago, the Donor Wall started with six large boards, proudly displaying the lifetime giving of donors who contributed \$2,500 or more to the law school. What could only be fate, at the February 27th reception, SJCL added the tenth donor board, signifying the remarkable growth over the past 10 years as well as the increased support to the law school. Seven new donors were added to the wall this year and sixteen donors elevated. Thank you to all of our generous donors. Without you, SJCL would not have experienced the success we have today.



Kim and Hon. W. Richard Lee
(Law '85 and Platinum Member)



Robert and Holley Perez (Law '88 and Cornerstone Member)



Dean **Janice Pearson** and **Donna Korotie**
(Law '85 and Barrister's Circle Member)



Ross Borba (Board and Founder's Circle Member) and **Nancy Flynn**.



Jeannie and Greg Durbin (Board and Silver Member)



Dean **Janice Pearson**, **Melissa L. White** (Law '96, Board, and Cornerstone Member) **Patricia White**, and **Hon. Gary Austin** (Law '76)



Charles Palmer (Law '13 and Gold Member), **Kyle Roberson** (Law '12), and **Christina Roberson** (Law '12)

Dear Faux Amici

By Jeffrey G. Purvis, Professor of Law

There are write-in advice and answer columns in hundreds of newspapers, magazines, and blogs, addressing every conceivable topic. But how many of these openly address fabricated e-mails from “audience” members who are admittedly imaginary? Only one! “Valley Views on the Law,” San Joaquin College of Law’s monthly legal information radio show on FM 88.1. KFCF, in Fresno, does just that. In the “Dear Professors” segment, I answer the pressing and topical legal questions generated by my own perverid imagination (along with one actual e-mail from an actual listener) every month, for the edification of the audience. You can also send me an e-mail to JPurvis@SJCL.edu. Here is a recent one preceding a discussion of lawsuits filed against businesses accused of violating the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Dear Professors

I am about your age, Professor Purvis, which means I am very old. It also means that I lived a significant portion of my life before the federal Americans with Disabilities Act was passed in 1990. I have been in a wheelchair since an accident I suffered as a teenager, and the ADA made a huge difference in my life. Something as simple as curb cuts from the sidewalk to the street at intersections meant that I could move around the city by myself, and access requirements in stores and restaurants meant I could buy groceries and meals for myself, things that were extremely difficult or impossible before the ADA. After passage of that legislation, I didn't have to stay home because there wouldn't be a bathroom I could use anywhere I went out in public. I know that many business owners resented having to make accommodations that cost them money without the prospect of increasing their profits, but the law improved the quality of my life so much. I am thankful that Congress and the first President Bush took action to help millions of disabled Americans.

I have read recently about proposed legislation to alter or diminish the protection the ADA and similar state laws provide for people like myself. The justification I have heard is that unscrupulous attorneys and disabled people are using the laws to extort money from small businesses. I'm not sure how that is possible, but the stories remind me of the time a woman sued a fast food restaurant after she spilled coffee on herself and recovered thousands of dollars in damages. The point of those reports was that lawyers and juries were destroying American business, but when you learned the actual facts of the specific case, it wasn't like that at all. Do you law professors think that the ADA and similar state statutes should be changed as recently proposed?

—Jesus Compasivo, Bethlehem, PA

My only specific encounters with the Americans with Disabilities Act professionally have involved accommodations sought by law students in connection with their studies, and such requests are mostly handled by the administration at SJCL, so I have very little personal knowledge about the statutory regime. Like many people, unless I am directly affected by or have a particular interest in a topic, I tend not to pay a lot of attention to it. I can recall faculty discussions in which the law students seeking accommodations such as extra time to take exams were characterized by some as trying to “game the system” and get an unfair advantage. At the time, I thought that was a callous and overly cynical attitude, although I recognized that any provision for changing exam conditions in a manner favorable to a student was potentially subject to abuse. The little I did learn about such requests caused me to conclude that they were legitimate. But that is anecdotal evidence—I would never base a public policy decision on what happened in the few situations I encountered.

My attitude is the same for tort reform efforts, to which you allude in your “hot

coffee” example. I can recall when that verdict was widely publicized, as you described, as evidence that greedy lawyers and their duplicitous or duped clients were destroying American corporations with their products liability lawsuits. My understanding is that the plaintiff was served coffee at a drive through window, and the coffee was so hot that when it spilled on her, it caused severe burns requiring hospitalization or at least significant medical treatment. But the more telling point for me is that legal scholars who engaged in subsequent empirical analyses of tort lawsuits reported that very few of them were what lawyers refer to as frivolous, that is, completely meritless suits brought only for purposes of harassment or wrongful gain. I concluded that “tort reform” was an effort by corporate interests to increase their profits by making it much more difficult for injured persons to recover compensation from the companies that injured them.

When the ADA was being debated in Congress, opponents such as Greyhound Bus Lines predicted that it had the potential to “deprive millions of people of affordable intercity public transportation and thousands of rural communities of their only link to the outside world.” The US Chamber of Commerce argued that the costs of the ADA would be “enormous” and have “a disastrous impact on many small businesses struggling to survive.” The National Federation of Independent Businesses called the ADA “a disaster for small business.” Twenty five years later, I don’t believe that this parade of horrors actually came to pass. In fact, the only thing depriving millions of people of affordable intercity public transportation around here are those signs on Highway 99 demanding that the “Pelosi-Costa Bullet Train Boondoggle” be rejected. So whatever decisions we make as a society should be based on sound empirical evidence and compassion.

Alumni Corner

Spring has sprung, trees are flowering, and winter is a distant memory. This means the time is drawing near to welcome another graduating class into the fold as fellow alumni.

This also means that the California Bar Exam is on the horizon for those soon-to-be graduates and the Alumni Association was there to provide words of wisdom, Bar Survival packages and of course, cookies and coffee as part of its annual Bar Survival talk.

Spring also represents the welcome of new faces to the Alumni Board. This year, Kyle Roberson (Law '12), Faith Lisle (Law '13), and Jonas Parr (Law '14) join the familiar faces of Beth Waldow (Law '09), David Margolin (Law '11), and Roger Wilson (Law '97). The Alumni Board is busily preparing for the Twelfth Annual Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament, which will take place on March 28th at Dragonfly Golf Club (formerly Riverbend). This year we are offering a hole-in-one prize of a Lexus NX 200 provided by Fresno Lexus. If you or anyone you know is a golf enthusiast, do not miss this opportunity to enjoy a morning of golf and the chance of winning a new car.

Other events planned for the year include the Hall of Fame in mid-September, as well as Senior Law Day and Got MCLE in the fall. Since the Alumni Association continually endeavors to provide topics for Got MCLE that are contemporary and valuable to its members, we invite you to provide us with any and all suggestions for topics and speakers.

Don't forget that your Alumni Association dues of \$30 allows you to attend Got MCLE and receive three hours of continuing legal education for the very low cost of FREE! If you are not

a member and would like to take full advantage of this benefit, you can join the Alumni Association by simply going online to the SJCL website and paying with PayPal or by dropping a check in the mail to SJCL Alumni Association, 901 5th Street, Clovis, CA 93612.

A new event the Alumni Association plans to roll out for the first time this year is an Alumni Appreciation Night at Chukchansi Park. Alumni and their families will be invited to reconnect with other fellow alumni over dinner and a Fresno Grizzlies baseball game. More information on this event will follow in the coming months.

As always, the year will round out with one of my favorite events, the annual Christmas party for the mothers and children of the Marjaree Mason Center. This event includes a fully decorated Christmas tree, presents, a choir from Clovis High School, Santa Rick Horowitz (Law '06), and Santa's helper Kopi Sotiropolous from KMPH. Thanks to the generous contributions of our Alumni this event improves each year and never fails to light up the faces of the children and mothers alike.

We look forward to serving the alumni this year and welcome any input to further improve our events and our service to you as members of the Alumni Association. I hope to see each of you at one of our events in the near future.

Sincerely,

Brande Gustafson (Law '09)
2015 Alumni Association President

Alumni Association Shares Insight

Four SJCL Alumni/bar passers shared valuable insights, along with cookies, coffee, and test prep trinkets, with soon-to-be graduates in Professor Safarian's Remedies class. The most valuable offerings, however, were the personal experiences they shared about what does and does not help in preparing for the bar exam.

Alumni Board President Brande Gustafson (Law '09), Board Vice President Kyle Roberson (Law '12), Travis Ishikawa (Law '12), and Angelica Ambrose (Law '14), each shared their own stories about how they prepared for the bar, what was useful and what wasn't, the pitfalls to avoid, and most importantly, how to stay sane throughout the process. Students enjoyed strong coffee and chunky cookies while listening to the best possible sources available – those who have been there, and done that. "The most important thing we can tell you is to stay calm, be organized, and trust yourself," said Roberson. "SJCL provides you with all you need to know to pass the bar. It's a good school," he said, "and you can do this."

The soon-to-be-grads expressed gratitude to the Alums for taking time out of their busy schedules to share words of wisdom and encouragement. The Alumni Association wishes to remind all students that they are happy to provide mentorship and guidance to anyone with questions and/or concerns. You can contact members of the Alumni Association through Diane Skouti at dskouti@sjcl.edu.

Alumni Profiles

This year we want to thank and congratulate four classes as we celebrate anniversaries of 10, 20, 30 and 40 years.

1985

William Frank

Like many 2nd career law school graduates, William Frank enjoyed a career as a school teacher before becoming an attorney. He taught classes in history, government, special education, biology, and 8th grade U.S. Constitution for a span of nine years after obtaining his teaching credential. He said he'd listen to his older colleague's frustrations, and the downside of teaching into their 60's, and decided he would rather be an attorney. He continued teaching the constitution class throughout law school, however, which he says made things interesting.

In addition to teaching full time during the day and attending law school at night, William secured a part time position in the district attorney's office in the family support division. "It was a rough schedule, especially with a one-year-old

the Chief Attorney for the Department of Child Support Services. In 2008 he returned to private practice, where he works part-time, specializing in criminal defense and family law.

William has two sons who both enjoy careers in the tech field. One has worked with Microsoft and the other is in computer security.

William has remained active in his church and the Knights of Columbus. He keeps busy, to say the least.

William says he has fond memories of his law school years. He developed the habit of grading his professors on their classroom performance, due to his four year stint as a Master Teacher at Fresno State. "I would sit in class and critique the instructors on their presentations," he said. On occasion William shared his "findings" with some of the instructors, "and sometimes they took my comments to heart!"

Donna Korotie

At the age of 87, Donna Korotie says she wishes she was still working. She thoroughly enjoyed her 30 year career in law: first as a secretary, then a paralegal, and finally as an attorney. Memories of her career serve as a shining example of the satisfaction and joy a 2nd act career can bring. As the wife of an Air Force man, Donna worked as a civil servant wherever her husband was stationed. Upon their return from Germany in 1967, she applied for a secretarial position with Fresno's first U.S. Attorney, who came to Fresno from North Dakota. Since Donna knew absolutely nothing about law, she figured she was most likely hired because she was originally from South Dakota. "He was a wonderful boss, but he didn't have time to teach me. I knew

nothing about the job. I learned a lot from the investigators who came to our office," she said. Because she was a quick study and had a natural ability with legal matters, it was suggested Donna earn her paralegal certificate. She did. By the time she was hired as a secretary to a Federal Judge, Donna was doing attorney work for paralegal wages. Her boss said she was a natural attorney, and suggested she go to law school. At 53, Donna worried that she was too old. Kathy Hart (Law '77), an SJCL student and extern in Donna's office at the time, helped change her mind. "Kathy had kids, she was a little older than the average student, and she was making it," she said. It was Donna's husband who provided the final encouragement. "And how old will you be in four years if you don't go to law school?" he said.

Shortly thereafter, Donna's husband died unexpectedly. In her haze of grief, she almost backed out of taking the LSAT, but her children insisted she try. With only two years of college to her credit, Donna did well on the LSAT and enrolled at SJCL. She worked hard. "Didn't cook or clean that first year," she laughed. Thirty years had passed since she attended school, but she maintained grades in the upper percentile of her class, and even more importantly, passed the bar exam upon graduating.

She was hired by Judge M.D. Crocker in 1985 where she served as law clerk, secretary, and bailiff when necessary. Through the years, Donna worked with many judges and attorneys and had the opportunity to travel extensively with the 9th Circuit Court. She spent considerable time in Hawaii, Tucson, San Diego, and Las Vegas where she worked on a case involving singer Wayne Newton and the NBC Television Studios.

Did you know...

SJCL Students Jerry DeMelo and Sally Moreno-Orme received the top two oral advocacy awards at the Tulane University National Moot Court Sports Law Competition in New Orleans in February of 1995.

at home at the time," he said. But he made it through, all the while maintaining Sundays for family time. Bill says his wife of 44 years, Marlene, is the spark behind his success. "She knew my desire and encouraged it," he said. "She has always been the wind beneath my wings."

William worked in private practice for four years before re-joining the DA's office for another nine. He then served as

“We won that one,” she laughs, “and I ended up having quite the scuffle with a tabloid news crew who tried to sneak some pictures!”

Donna has fond memories of her SJCL study group, Adina Janzen, Pat Dupes, and Peter Bunting. “We studied together a lot,” she said. “Judge Caeton’s Criminal Procedures class was a kick. He always wore a dark suit and got chalk on it from the chalkboard. When others in class couldn’t give the answer he was looking for he’d refer to us; “How about [the three stooges] in the back?”

2005

Joanna Ebner

Joanna Ebner (Law '05) decided to change her career focus after several years as a House Supervisor at Adventist Medical Center in Selma. She thought maybe she would retire and become a lawyer. Her position as House Supervisor was highly demanding. It required being responsible for the entire hospital when on duty. Even so, she continued in the position and worked full-time throughout law school. With no experience in law, Joanna had a rough first year. “I really liked it, but it was hard. I graduated with honors in the nursing program and later earned a master’s degree,” she said. “My grades in law school, however, ranged from sublime to ridiculous!” Joanna switched to the paralegal program after her first year, to gain more insight. She completed it, and then started law again. It took her seven years in all to complete law school, while maintaining her full time nursing career. She was the oldest person in her class, 58, when she graduated. Her commendable work ethic allowed Joanna to graduate debt-free.

With her law degree in hand, Joanna continued in her position as House Supervisor, but also taught classes on negligence and hospital safety to nursing staff. She insisted on action-based safety. Joanna retired after 30 years on the job. She says now she would like to do some volunteer work, maybe for AARP or the SPCA, and is thinking about ways to incorporate her legal training.

She also looks forward to more traveling. Solvang on the coast with its open air Shakespearian Theatre is one of her favorite destinations. She says she hopes to take some bigger continental trips as well. Joanna hopes as a retiree she’ll have more time for handcraft projects like knitting, sewing, and crocheting. She says she thoroughly enjoyed her entire law school experience. She often returns to campus for the annual Donor Wall Reception and various Alumni Association events. She is a treasured supporter of SJCL, often donating in memory of fellow '05 classmate Rosemary Hidalgo, who passed away shortly after graduation.

Mary Moshrefi

2005 graduate Mary Moshrefi has packed a lot of law into the past 10 years, as well as a lot of achievement. Since 2009 she has served as C.E.O, Managing Partner, and Litigator of Walters & Moshrefi, with fellow SJCL student Jennifer Walters (Law '04). She additionally teaches a variety of courses relating to business and criminal law at the University of Phoenix.

Mary says she was encouraged as a child to pursue a career in either medicine or law. After some “less than pleasing experiences” in biology class, she chose the latter. She graduated from Fresno

State with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology – Emphasis in Law Enforcement, and worked as a case manager in Criminal Justice Alternatives. After that she provided litigation support at Lang, Richert & Patch, and then joined the Public Defender’s Office as a law clerk. From there she served first as a law clerk, and then an associate attorney at two additional law offices before returning to the Public Defender’s Office as a criminal defense attorney. Both Mary and her partner Jennifer Walters

Did you know...

94 students graduated from SJCL with a Juris Doctor degree in the spring of 1995.

were working for the county when they decided to take a chance on opening their own firm. Their partnership actually began, however, years before, during their law school years at SJCL.

“We studied together and assisted one another through the Bar process,” Mary said. “We also both held positions on the student council board at SJCL, and renovated the break room in 2004. I still recall going out and buying the couches, arranging for donation of the blinds, and the decorative items, which still remain in the room today.”

Mary has received the Rising Star Award for the past three years, and is a member of numerous professional organizations. She says helping people in their most dire time of need feeds her passion for the law. She says she hopes to continue making a difference in the lives of those she endeavors to assist.

Elizabeth O’Neill Book Drive

The book drive makes a difference. San Joaquin College of Law would like to thank everyone who contributed books to the Elizabeth O’Neill Book Drive this year; 511 books were delivered to the libraries at Pinedale and Temperance Kutner as a result of your kindness. With budgets perpetually tight, the schools’ librarians say they are only able to purchase up to about 150 books per year. That includes not only new titles, but also, replacing read-to-death favorites within the libraries. The 511 books represent both a boon to the two libraries and a record-breaking number for the seven-year-old O’Neill Drive, which has now contributed well over 2,000 books to Clovis Unified Title I school libraries.



Two Temperance Kutner students grab favorites from the stacks contributed to the O’Neill Drive this year. (L-R) Pinedale Librarian **Carol Lewis**, Temperance Kutner Librarian **Tammy Blackwell**, and SJCL staff **Victoria Denny** and **Kerry Prindiville**.

Cartier (From Page 1)

He established the Regional Family Law & Mediation Center at SJCL to give students the opportunity to work hands-on in resolving family law disputes. His efforts in this arena extended beyond the law school as he helped promote mediation and provide training on mediation topics to members of the bench, bar, and community groups in Fresno and around the state. Cartier was also recognized for helping facilitate successful resolutions of various governmental and community disputes.

Cartier is also known for his connection with kids. Some of those he taught in elementary school later turned up in his law school classes where they had to pass his classes again. There were also the “legacy” law students, whose parents he had taught earlier. Professor Sally Perring confided in him before her retirement last spring that he needed to “get out before the grandkids start coming.”

And then there are his own three kids, who he says “grew up in the Law

School.” Many students recall them passing out exam papers or scaling the seemingly mile-high wall next to the Shields Avenue building on their way to get donuts with Dad from the shop in the parking lot next door.

Despite all three daughters graduating from college, they still treat SJCL as a home base, as does his wife, Missy, who was hired as SJCL’s Public Information Officer five years ago. Oldest daughter Rachel graduated from SJCL in 2011 and is currently a Madera County Deputy District Attorney. Sarah, who recently returned from a two-year Peace Corps deployment in Mongolia, made SJCL one of her first stops upon returning to America so she could show off the Mongolian street mutt she adopted. Meanwhile, youngest daughter Becca is a mechanical engineer who convinced her boyfriend that the best way to ingratiate himself with her Dad was to show up during his class breaks with root beer floats. Many alumni regret not having this valuable information during law school.

Many remember Cartier as a Professor who helped them succeed. Beyond the classroom, he spent countless hours meeting with students for review sessions and individual meetings. He also developed an Introduction to Law School program designed to acclimate incoming students to the rigors of law school before school begins. Cartier enjoys watching students learn. While acknowledging individual ability, he especially appreciates the extra effort students devote to ensure success.

As his tenure at SJCL comes to a close and plans are made to travel to Central America and Southeast Asia, Cartier wants to establish a scholarship recognizing First Year Improvement for the student who shows the greatest increase in overall GPA from December to May of the first year. The goal is to reward the tenacity and perseverance of the student who, after stumbling out of the blocks, learns how to do law school right.

“That was me.”

Thank you for your support!

December 15, 2014 – March 5, 2015

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The San Joaquin College of Law Alumni Association invites you to join us for the 12th Annual Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament, March 28, 2015.

Some 80 golfers took to the links last year, with the team of Robert Howk, John Benjamin, Scott Hardy, and Ron Lewis reigning victorious with the first place win. The team of Tom Spencer, Pheng Ly, John Hartsock and Mike Perkins took the second place spot. Will they return to defend their titles this year? Will they be dethroned by someone new? Join us at the beautiful Dragonfly Golf Club in Madera on March 28th to find out! The tournament is always a fun event with friendly competition, gorgeous weather (hopefully), prizes, a raffle, and lunch. Proceeds help fund SJCL student scholarships. Online tournament sponsorship and registration links can be found at sjcl.edu. We look forward to seeing you at Dragonfly on March 28th.

Fundamentals of Bankruptcy

Thursday, May 21, 2015 | 6.50 MCLE Hours

Join us for a one day course designed to provide practical knowledge about basic bankruptcy concepts and procedures. It will give the non-bankruptcy practitioner or someone new to the field a solid overview of what bankruptcy is all about. It is also a good primer for accountants, bankers and paralegals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kasi Welte at 559/326-1466 or kwelte@sjcl.edu

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