



# Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter  
Volume XXVI, Number 2

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## Celebrating the 42<sup>ND</sup> Graduating Class

*"Truly listen when they tell you how proud they are of what you've achieved"*

*– Jarrett Rogers, Valedictorian*

**F**ind the brightest, best, and hardest worker, grab onto his shirttail, and don't let go."

Commencement Speaker and Fresno County Deputy District Attorney Rudy Carrillo told the Class of 2015 he was offered that advice by a former drill sergeant and it set the tone for his life. That lifestyle includes a responsibility of paying it forward, of giving "time and talent to those coming behind you."

If the speeches and personal statements of the 35 graduates of San Joaquin College of Law on May 30, 2015 are any indication, many are already following

the first part of that advice, taking time to thank "attorney mentors," "law firms that welcomed us as clerks," and "the entire SJCL community."

Many already have "you-pass-the-bar-you're-hired" offers in hand. That includes Caren Cooper Curtiss, who spent 30 years as a paralegal but will return to Herr, Pedersen & Berglund as an Associate Attorney when she passes. Meanwhile, Sally Vecchiarelli has that offer from Hammerschmidt Broughton Law Corporation, Corina Burchfield will return to the Sawl Law Group, Thais Bueno-Nielsen will be picked up as an Associate Attorney in the Law Office

of Stefanie Krause, and Brett Barcellos plans to return to the Dias Law Firm.

While the graduates' thanks to mentors was profuse, the thanks to family and friends ranged from profound to comical. Maria Cordova thanked a niece for encouraging post-it notes "often placed ALL over the house," and Cinderella Co thanked her dog "Cootie" who "stood by my side until the end." Sarah McNabb thanked her daughter, calling her "my biggest fan," Emmanuel Mena expressed gratitude to his wife, two sons and "the baby, who's attending this ceremony from the womb," while Megan

See Graduation pg 10



Congratulations to the Class of 2015

*Significant changes may be on the horizon for admission to practice law in California.*

### Two Day Bar

The Committee of Bar Examiners (COBE) has unanimously approved moving to a two-day bar examination. The exam would consist of the Multistate Bar Examination one day with five one-hour essays and one 90-minute performance exam another day, each day weighted 50% towards a passing score. The proposal now goes to the Board of Trustees of the State Bar. If approved, COBE must give two years notice of the change, so it probably would not be effective until July of 2017 at the earliest.

COBE representatives stated that the 3-day exam is too draining for students physically and emotionally. A 2-day exam is also less expensive to administer. Currently, about 10% of bar exam takers are accommodated which increases the expense. COBE indicated that a 2-day bar would enable them to increase the cost of taking the bar more slowly.

Currently, the bar exam is weighted 65% on the written portions (6 essays and 2 three-hour performance exams) and 35% on the MBE. Women do slightly better on the written portion and men do slightly better on the MBE. COBE believes chang-

ing the weighting to 50% on each portion will make the bar more gender neutral. Their statistical analyses indicate that roughly the same percentage of people will pass the bar although the particular individuals who pass may be different.

### Admissions Regulation Reform Recommendations

The State Bar has sent a report to the California Supreme Court recommending adoption of the following requirements for an individual to be admitted to the Bar.

1. Completion of 15 units in experiential courses, preferably in law school, but before admission. Five units of first-year analysis, research and writing, and moot court courses would NOT count towards this requirement.
2. Completion of 50 hours of pro bono or low bono work (under supervision) before admission. These could be completed as part of the law school experiential courses.
3. Increased MCLE requirements for the first year after admission.

The first poses challenges for law schools. Many schools require all 13 bar subjects, consuming 65 to 75 units of an 80 to 90 unit curriculum.

Adding 15 units to that base means elective courses will virtually cease to exist to the detriment of students in the employment marketplace.

Many deans raised questions as to what the bar exam was intended to test. What is the meaning of "minimum competency?" Is it a test of substantive law knowledge? Does one ever have minimum competency in a subject area based upon a law school class?

Is the bar a test of the ability to apply law to a set of facts? If so, why test so many subjects as any will accomplish the same objective? One prominent dean suggested that all the subjects be placed in a hat, six pulled out, and the bar limited to those.

If the priority, as reflected by the Admissions Reform proposal, is better preparing students for the actual practice of law, why is the performance exam being de-emphasized? This has been the section of the bar that came closest to replicating the skills needed for the practice of law – case and statutory interpretation, synthesis, and legal writing.

These proposals are of great importance to law students, law school curriculum, and the practice of law. Stay tuned.

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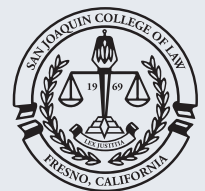
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# Traynor Moot Court

*The Traynor Moot Court Team once again made San Joaquin College of Law proud.*



The Traynor Team (L-R) **Craig Waters**, **Whitney Northington**, and **Emmanuel Mena** (Law '15)

**H**ow did the SJCL Traynor Moot Court Team do this past April in San Francisco? Professor Shannon Harding, along with Professors Shawna Braun and Kathy McKenna, accompanied the team and have this assessment of their work:

“The efforts that Craig Waters, Whitney Northington, and Emmanuel Mena put forth in preparation for the competition were outstanding. Craig and Whitney faced - and more importantly, held their own against - the team from UC Berkeley in the first round. The panel

was tough, and peppered all four of the participants with questions. From the comments provided after that first round, it was a very close match. Moving on to the second round, where SJCL faced the team from UC Davis - and again held their own - they were rock solid. This panel was less engaging and missing a panelist, but eventually the questions began and Craig and Whitney met the challenges posed head on.

While SJCL did not place in either brief writing or the team oral argument competitions, it is my great pleasure to report

that Craig Waters was recognized for his outstanding individual achievement. He earned a combined average score of 95 or above from rounds one and two in oral arguments!

It was truly a pleasure to advise this very talented group of students, and to realize what those amazing talents will do for their clients in the very near future. SJCL should be very proud of all three of them. A job very well done.”

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## 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, and Rose Safarian

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# The Journey for 100 Years began in the main hallway of SJCL.

*I became quite politically active starting at the age of 18. As a member of the Fresno chapter of the Armenian National Committee, I often lobbied politicians to recognize the Armenian Genocide of 1915, both here and in Washington, D.C.*

By **Rose Safarian**, *Professor of Law*

After about 20 years, I burned out. Mostly, I lost faith. I was tired of going to expensive political events and speaking to out-of-town candidates, only to watch their glazed expressions as they told me they would do all they could to have the Genocide recognized. I was tired of that same promise made by every Presidential candidate, each of whom omitted that all important word once they became President. So after my children were born, I stepped back.

However, one afternoon in early spring, Professor Jessica Smith Bobadilla (whose father is Armenian) and I were talking in the SJCL hallway and she mentioned the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. I told her my daughter, Emily, had asked if we could go to Los Angeles to participate in the six mile march and demonstration. Jessica responded immediately that we had to go and be part of history.

So at 5am on April 24, 2015, Jessica, Emily and I set out for Los Angeles. We had initially decided to go to one of the designated locations where we could park our car and get bus transportation to and from the march. After we learned



Professors **Rose Safarian** and **Jessica Smith Bobadilla**

that all the spaces on the buses were taken, I remembered that my mother's two cousins, Rosik and Shake, lived within a couple of miles of where the march was supposed to start. When I contacted them to ask if we could leave our car parked in front of their house, they were thrilled. Our new plan was to call a cab or get an uber ride to the march.

However, when we arrived I discovered my cousins had something else in mind;

they would drive us to the march themselves and pick us up at the end. This was their way of participating because they could not walk the six miles.

While 50,000 were expected to march, the *Los Angeles Times* estimated there were 130,000 actual participants. We hardly moved during the first hour because so many people showed up at the same time.

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Colorful flags, clever signs, and enthusiastic chants entertained us for the 4 ½ hours we were on our feet. The march was long and rewarding, but for me, its impact paled in comparison to what happened when we rejoined my cousins.

As promised, Rosik and Shake picked us up when we were ready to call it a march. We arrived at their house to a delicious homemade Armenian (of course) meal. They wanted to hear all about the march, they wanted to know more about Jessica, and they wanted to remember various family members who were no longer with us.

The Genocide had its obvious impacts: 1.5 million Armenians killed, and many children orphaned. However, the Genocide also fractured Armenian families, sometimes splitting them over different continents. Almost every Armenian can tell you about individuals they refer to as “Uncle,” “Auntie,” or “Cousin” without knowing exactly how those individuals are related. Perhaps we lacked the specific information because it was too painful for the survivors of the Genocide to explain who these people were without remembering other family members who were lost.

Rosik and Shake remembered that their father, Jirair, always referred to my grandfather as “Uncle.” We all assumed it was a generational reference because of their age difference. However, during dinner the family connection was revealed. I started to tell a story that is famous in our family about my grandparents’ wedding. My grandfather, Hamazasp, recognizes the priest is about to go into an elaborate ceremony usually reserved for the wealthy. I noted that my grandfather knew this because he was the son of a priest. A light bulb went off in Shake’s head. Apparently, Shake’s father would often relate stories about how his mother led prayer sessions for Genocide victims while they were in hiding, because she was so familiar with the Armenian liturgy as the daughter of a priest. There it was. My grandfather was actually Jirair’s uncle, making my mother Jirair’s first cousin, and Shake and Rosik my second cousins. A hole in our family tree was suddenly filled in, a branch reconnected.



# Alumni highlight career opportunities at SJCL's Career Panel

*"I was once the rat at Chuck E. Cheese, and a pick-up guy for 1-800-GOTJUNK?"*

*—Henry Campa (Law '11)*



(L-R) Panelists **Mary Moshrefi** (Law '05), **Hon. Rosemary McGuire** (Law '94), **Michael Dias** (Law '93), **Lisa Cutts** (Law '11), **Rick Wolf** (Law '97), and **Henry Campa** (Law '11)

Six SJCL Alumni, representing the broad spectrum of career options in law, shared their experiences with some 50 prospective law students at a recent Career Panel Forum on campus.

Most, like Henry Campa – a Criminal Trial Attorney for the Public Defender's Office - had humble beginnings. His pre-law school jobs included stints as the costumed Chuck E. Cheese rat, and 1-800-GOTJUNK? A small town boy, Henry says he was thrilled just going to college and obtaining his B.A. "I thought my bachelor's degree would send me off to the world of fortune and fame," he said, "but it doesn't." Growing up, Henry had never even met an attorney, but he was intrigued after a chance meeting with two law school students. "I wondered if I could do it, too," he said.

Henry's second attempt at the LSAT gained him acceptance to a law school in Florida.

"I drove my old Mazda to Florida," Henry said, "but it never occurred to me I would be studying Florida law." Happily, his Mazda held together long

enough for the return trip to Fresno, and Henry applied to SJCL so he could be close to family, "but not so close they could bug me."

"SJCL is very diverse," Henry said. "Everyone is close and wants each other to succeed." Henry says the caseload in the public defender's office is overwhelming, "but I feel like I'm helping the community."

Lisa Cutts (Law '11) had three big goals as a youngster. She thought she would be a lifelong engineer, designing airplanes (goal #1), but after 20 years as a Base Civil Engineer in the Air National Guard, she retired. She enrolled in law school and graduated with high honors (goal #2). Since then Lisa has been with the firm Bolen Fransen Sawyers LLP, practicing a wide range of transactional business and real estate law. She says once she retires from her legal career, she might just complete goal #3, and write the Great American Novel.

Rick Wolf (Law '97) is Vice President & General Counsel for Valley Children's Hospital. He says he never expected he'd be practicing law for a hospital. "It's a

very complex area," he said. "I advise the board and senior leaders of the hospital, which is a 750 million dollar operation." Rick says his position is focused on what's best for the kids of the Central Valley, and making sure the hospital's resources are used wisely. One of the more complex issues Rick handles involves children who are facing withdrawal of life support. "It comes up often, and is always so difficult," he said. "It's very rewarding to help families facing such enormous decisions by providing all the information and assistance we can." Rick stressed that a law degree provides opportunities to use one's education effectively, with lots of options. He has been with Valley Children's Hospital since 2002.

The Honorable Rosemary McGuire (Law '94) approached her career in law like a ladder. She started out as a paralegal, and then enrolled in law school to become an attorney, attending classes at night. "With a family, children, and a full time job, it was a hard four years," she said. But Rosemary states proudly that she graduated debt-free. As a first year lawyer, Rosemary said her most memorable case was an 8 million dollar

lawsuit for a child's brain injury. "I was consumed by the case. It was exhausting, intense, and exciting," she said.

In 2010, Rosemary was appointed to the bench after 14 years as a lawyer. Judge McGuire serves in the Family Law Division of Fresno County Superior Court.

Michael Dias (Law '93) is the founder and managing shareholder for Dias Law Firm, Inc. He is also a member of the SJCL Board of Trustees. His initial jobs included working on the family dairy in Hanford. He says he decided to go to law school, "because I was intrigued by our family lawyer." Although he had been accepted to other law schools, Michael decided he wanted to live at home and attend SJCL. "It was one of the best things I ever did," he said.

Michael maintained his full time job at the dairy in addition to working another job, while attending classes at night. He also had a wife and small children, but was also able to graduate from law school, debt-free. No small feat in any economy.

Michael says it is satisfying to have fulfilled his goal of providing a full service law firm in his hometown of Hanford, including criminal law, family law, agriculture, and business.

Mary Moshrefi (Law '05) says her parents gave her a choice. "They said I could either go to medical school, be an engineer, or a lawyer." Intrigued by her brother's criminology studies at Fresno State, she decided to study the same. Although Mary was accepted to other law schools outside of Fresno, she wanted to stay at home. Mary capitalized on the opportunity to make as many connections as possible during law school. When she graduated and passed the bar, she had multiple job offers waiting. "I look at legal problems like engines," Mary said. "You have to take each piece apart to find the problem, and then put it all back together again."

Law school, says Mary, is about figuring out how you learn. "It's learning how to learn," she said.

## A Toast to Barpassers

*"First I screamed. Then I cried. So the dog jumped on me."*



FRONT ROW (L-R): **Veronica Hales, Kristina Garabedian, Megan Dutra, Jonas Parr, and Jacob Gelegan**

BACK ROW (L-R): **Jamie Palm, Vicente Reyes, and Jonathan Echols**

NOT PICTURED: **Daisy Castro, Agnieszka Malgorzata Gill, and Ramon Nava**

It was hard for anyone to contain themselves at the February Barpassers Champagne Reception on May 18th in the Great Hallway at San Joaquin College of Law.

Just three days after learning they passed the February Bar, many were also celebrating new jobs. Vicente Reyes was hired earlier in the day by the Tulare County District Attorney's office after clerking there for the past year. He says "It was a situation of 'You pass, you're hired.'" Previous to his year there, he also interned at the Public Defender's Office and with private firms, including Baradat & Paboojian.

Jamie Palm is another you-pass-you're-hired barpasser who was picked up by Gregory Fox's office, while Kristina Garabedian is now an attorney at Jacob-

son, Hansen & McQuillan, and Jacob Gelegan was hired by Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman, LLP.

Meanwhile, Megan Dutra became in-house counsel for Maricopa Orchards, LLC. It is the completion of a dream which included her undergraduate degree in Ag Science and Ag Business from Cal Poly. She feels it's an exciting time to be working in Ag Law, especially in light of the current water shortages.

It was also a day when a partnership was cemented. Tanvir Joshi started his own law firm after he graduated, specializing in immigration. When he ran into several family law cases, he called on his former classmate, Veronica Hales, to clerk in that capacity. With Hales passing the Bar, the firm now becomes "Joshi and Hales."



# A Black Tie Affair to Remember

*Congratulations to the San Joaquin College of Law Student Bar Association for a great night of friendship, fun, food, and drink, at this year's Spring Scholarship Banquet. About 200 people mixed, mingled and celebrated at the "Black Tie Affair" on March 20th at Classic Catering in Clovis.*

## Scholarship Recipients

---

*Abota Memorial Scholarship*

**Jarrett Rogers**

*Alumni Association Carolyn T. Mirviss Scholarship*

**Jeff Castleton**

*Alumni Association Spirit of SJCL Scholarship*

**D'Artagnan Montrose**

*Baradat & Paboojian Trial Advocacy Scholarship*

**Diego Andrade**

*Bertha & John Garabedian Military Service Scholarships*

**Michael Kerr, Carmen Kalashian, and Andrea Chapman**

*Cartier First Year Improvement Scholarship*

**Andrea Chapman**

*CCBA Scholarships*

**Alexander Newsum, Whitney Northington, Craig Waters, and Kelsey Seib**

*Clovis Soroptimist Woman's Advocate Award*

**Virginia Madrid-Salazar**

*Darryl B. Freedman Bar Study Support Scholarship*

**Sally Vecchiarelli**

*Delta Theta Phi Scholarships*

**Mandy Kendzora and Heidi Falany**

*EECU Scholarship*

**Jacquelin Curry**

*Elizabeth O'Neill Memorial Scholarship*

**Amanda Moran**

*Ernest Kinney Trial Lawyer Scholarship*

**Jeremy Dobbins**

*Hammerschmidt/Broughton Criminal Practice Scholarship*

**Sarah McNabb**

*Florentino Jose Memorial Scholarship*

**Matthew Green**

*Founder's Scholarship*

**DuShawn Johnson**

*Ibarra/Casillas LawSUIT Scholarships*

**Virginia Madrid-Salazar**

*Janice Pearson Scholarship*

**Leila Alamri-Kassim**

*Judy Wiseman Memorial Scholarship*

**Brandon Hinton**

*Ken Coyle Memorial Scholarship*

**Alexander Newsum**

*Kharazi Bar Study Support Scholarship*

**Alexandria De La Fuente**

*LawSUIT Scholarship*

**Jennifer Nguyen-Bui**

*Legal Edge Consumer Scholarship*

**Raquel Busani**

*Leon S. Peters Foundation Leadership Awards*

**Corina Burchfield, William Chaddock, Amanda Kendzora, Jennifer Oleksa, and Richard Placido**

*Proctor Scholar of the Year*

**Jennifer Oleksa**

*Robert F. & Kathryn S. Price Scholarship*

**Jessica McClung**

*SJCL Student Bar Association Law Scholarship for Merit – Most Improved*

**Melanie Contreras**

*SJCL Student Bar Association Law Scholarship for Need*

**Carey Haydon**

*SJCL Student Bar Association Law Scholarship for Participation*

**Shannon Wallen**

## Special Honor Awards

---

*Adjunct of the Year*

**Honorable Jonathan B. Conklin**

*Teacher of the Year*

**Richard Cartier**

*NALC Pro Bono award for assistance to NALC clients*

**Janine Esquivel, Adiuvio Law Group**

*Fourth Year Student of the Year*

**Kim Nakagawa**

*Third Year Student of the Year*

**Brittany Hines**

*Second Year Student of the Year*

**Andrea Chapman & Jasdeep Lasher**

*First Year Student of the Year*

**Joseph Good**





Board and Staff members of the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* receive recognition. (L-R): Staff member **Megan Brown**, Production Editor **Mao Lee**, Editor-in-Chief **Virginia Madrid Salazar**, Executive Editor **Jeff Castleton**, Assistant Editor-in-Chief **Jennifer Oleksa**, Staff member **Mandy Kendzora**, **Corina Burchfield**, **Sarah McNabb**, **Sally Noxon Vecchiarelli**, and **Jarrett Rogers**.



**Brittany Hines** and **Roshana Shirzad** (SBA President and Law '15)



**Rajinder Sungu** (Scholarship Donor and Law '12) and **Rachel Cartier** (Law '11)



Professors **George Vasquez** (Law '13) and **James Mugridge** (Law '13)



**Leila Alamri-Kassim** and **Katelen Weisenberger**



**Mark Broughton**, **Sarah McNabb** (Law '15), and **Professor Jeffrey Hammerschmidt**



Teacher of the Year **Professor Richard Cartier**

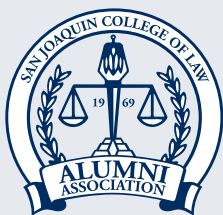
# Graduation

Brown's thanks to her husband and children boiled down to a simple statement: "You are my purpose." Matthew Hawkes thanked everyone from his wife to his grandmother-in-law, but perhaps best expressed his gratitude with his statement "Matthew's highest honor is being a proud father of four children, and a husband."

Valedictorian Jarrett Rogers' speech captured the affection and pride flowing through the audience. He told his classmates "Truly listen when they tell you how proud they are of what you've achieved." Deni Glenn-Boeve further captured the celebratory times by giving each member of the class SJCL-logoed glasses with which to raise a toast.

The ceremony's focus on the future also held some poignant nods to the past. Professor Sally Perring, who retired last year, returned to the stage to see many of her former students awarded their Juris Doctorates. Former staff member Joan Lassley also showed up backstage for hugs and various primping help for the grads. On stage, Professor Lawrence Artenian reflected on this year's retirement of Professor Richard Cartier, who was chosen by the class to hood this year's candidates. Artenian pointed out that he and Cartier were hired at the same time, with their pictures appearing side-by-side in the Law School's newsletter. He alluded to the faux war between the two over the decades in which each offered "highly critical remarks" about the other to their respective classes, but sooner or later, students would come to him and say, "I think you two actually like each other." SJCL apparently felt the same about Cartier, surprising him at Commencement with an Honorary Doctorate from the Law School.

SJCL Dean Janice Pearson also received a surprise honor. SJCL Board Chair Doug Noll's introduction of her mentioned that this is her 30th year as Dean, causing the entire audience to rise in a standing ovation. As she walked to the podium, she declared "Being in tears is no way to start a Commencement."



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is your network.  
Join today.

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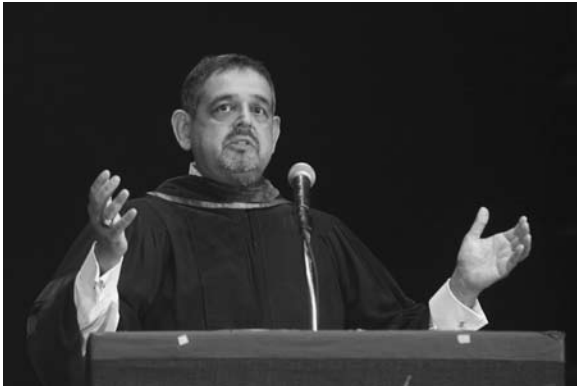
**Amanda Kendzora, William Klomhaus, and Michael Landers**



**Jessica McClung, Sarah McNabb, and Emmanuel Mena**



**Cinderela Co, Maria Cordova, and Caren Curtiss**



Commencement Speaker **Rudy Carrillo**, *Deputy District Attorney*



**Hon. Stanley Boone** and **Hon. Jon Conklin** capture the moment with a selfie stick

## Class of 2015

David Christopher Austin  
 Brett Matthew Barcellos  
 Dennette "Deni" Boeve  
 Megan Diana Brown  
 Thais Sandra Bueno-Nielsen  
 Corina Michelle Burchfield  
 Andrew Yu Chan  
 Lenore Choa Christensen  
 Cinderella Ivory Y. Co  
 Maria G. Cordova  
 Caren Cooper Curtiss  
 Alexandria De La Fuente  
 Matthew William Hawkes  
 Carey Leanne Haydon  
 Firas Abdel Jaber  
 DuShawn M. Johnson  
 Amanda Kay Kendzora  
 William Joel Klomhaus  
 Michael Benjamin Landers  
 Jesus A. Martinez-Berber  
 Jessica Ann McClung  
 Sarah Elizabeth McNabb  
 Emmanuel H. Mena  
 Alison Morris  
 Kim Kiyomi Nakagawa  
 John Stuart Orman  
 Nellie Margaret Pelloian  
 Erika Laine Rascon  
 Jarrett Waylon Rogers  
 Roshana Mariam Shirzad  
 Keegan J. Smith  
 Anneka Grace Sweeney  
 Andrew David Trippel  
 Sally Sofija Vecchiarelli  
 Katelyn Elaine Weisenberger



Valedictorian **Jarrett Rogers**



**Matthew Hawkes**, **Alexandria De La Fuente**, and **Caren Curtiss**



**Maria Cordova**, **Lenore Christensen**, and **Corina Burchfield**



**DuShawn Johnson** and **Carey Haydon**



# Cartier Retirement Celebration

*Thanks to everyone who joined us April 10th as we celebrated Professor Richard Cartier's 30 years at San Joaquin College of Law. Happy retirement!*



**Professor Richard & Missy (Staff) Cartier** with their daughters **Sarah, Becca, and Rachel (Law '11)**



**Jean Pinkerton (Law '91)** and **Hon. Gary Austin (Law '76)**



**Ross Borba (Board)** and **Nancy Flynn**



**Scott Jones (Law '07), Judy Rogers (Law '04),** and **Teresa Petty-Jones (Law '07)**



**Deborah Boyett (Law '01), Professor Richard Cartier,** **Hon. Jon Conklin,** and **Professor Andreas Borgeas**



**Joan Levie (Law '95)** and **Karen Mathes (Law '95)**



**Beth Waldow (Law '09)** and **Brande Gustafson (Alumni President and Law '09)**



**Desirée Terronez (Law '07)** and **Sherrie Flynn (Law '05)**

# Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament

*Thanks to everyone who participated in the SJCL Alumni Association's 2015 Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament, raising money for San Joaquin College of Law scholarships and having a good time! We are grateful to all our sponsors and players who made this year's tournament a great success.*



FIRST PLACE TEAM (L-R) **Cody Avila, Fred Avila, Mike Czesinski, and Wyatt Czesinski**



Scoping out the silent auction items

Congratulations to the winning four-some, which included Clovis High School Golf Coach Fred Avila, CHS Golf Team members Cody Avila (Fred's son) and Wyatt Czesinski, along with Wyatt's dad, Attorney Mike Czesinski. Second place went to the team of Gary and Jody Winter (two brothers who both graduated from SJCL in 2006) along with Jeff James and Ryan Reeves.

Special thanks to Fresno Lexus, which offered a 24 month lease on an NX 200 for the hole-in-one prize. While no one got the hole-in-one on hole 12, Dennis Nard (Law '95), of Parker, Kern, Nard and Wenzel came awfully close!

The Judy Wiseman Memorial Scholarship was created in honor of an SJCL student who lost her courageous battle with cancer, but who, throughout her illness, inspired classmates with her academic achievement. The Golf Tournament is sponsored by the San Joaquin College of Law Alumni Association to raise money for the scholarship in her memory.



SECOND PLACE TEAM (L-R) **Ryan Reeves, Jeff James, Gary Winter (Law '06), and Jody Winter (Law '06)**



(L-R) **David Weiland (Board and Law '92), Ron Yamabe, David Frankenberger, and Luis Patlan**



# SJCL Alumni of Pascuzzi Pascuzzi & Stoker



**Harry Pascuzzi** (Law '86) is the founder of Pascuzzi Pascuzzi & Stoker. Harry attended a deposition in the early 80's and noticed one of the attorneys was wearing white gym socks with a pinstripe suit. "It made me think, if *that* guy could get through law school, I knew I could too." Harry didn't realize there was a law school right here in the Valley. "I thought I would have to go to L.A. or San Francisco." Harry has practiced real estate and business law for nearly 30 years and says attending SJCL changed his life.

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**Robert Abrams** (Law '08) says it was always his dream to attend law school. Once his kids grew up, he was finally able to go for it. He attributes the discipline he'd learned from his first two careers, as a banker and then in real estate, for his ability to breeze through law school. As someone who always loved reading and taking classes, "it wasn't all that horrible, just a lot of work," he said. "Becoming an attorney teaches you new ways of thinking," Robert says.

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**Glen Gates** (Law '78) moved from Colorado to attend SJCL in the early 70's. He says he was also looking into Duke University, but he chose SJCL when founders Wanger, Eymann and Loomis agreed to admit him. "Law is not memorization, it's learning to analyze. At 21 I didn't know [anything]," he said. "I owe everything to SJCL – it's opened a lot of doors for a lot of people."

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**Susan Pascuzzi** (Law '97) has no regrets about her decision to go into law. "It was the hardest thing I ever did, but I made it," she said. Susan started law school with a 13-month-old at home. She took care of her son during the day and attended classes at night. "I thoroughly enjoyed my education at SJCL; it was a very rewarding experience," she says. Susan's been at the firm for over 16 years focusing on wills and trusts, probate and real estate.

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**Benny Barco** (Law '07) was working as a training manager for several high-tech companies in the Bay Area when he saw a mention in the Contra Costa Times newspaper about SJCL's great graduate bar pass rate. Although it was a "huge commitment while he worked full time with a family at home," Benny says his choice to attend law school was a good one. "I'd do it again if I had the opportunity," he says. Benny specializes in business/contract law.

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**Justin Vecchiarelli** (Law '14) joined the firm as a law clerk while attending law school and was hired full-time after passing the bar. "At the start of my internship they told me to keep my head down and stay out of people's way!" Justin likes high stakes civil litigation and focuses on real estate law. "It's fun, I'm very happy with what I'm doing and have a large variety of experiences." As an attorney who also happens to be a sommelier. Justin enjoys the opportunity to work additionally on cases involving agriculture, and sometimes, components of wine making.

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# Alumni Profiles

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

## 1975

### Hon. R.L. "Chip" Putnam

The Honorable R.L. "Chip" Putnam has enjoyed a long and illustrious law career since graduating with SJCL's 2nd-ever graduating class. As the Presiding Judge of the Fresno Municipal Court, the Appellate Department of the Superior Court, and the Juvenile Delinquency Court, Judge Putnam served on the bench for 27 years, in addition to numerous boards and committees.

After working for several years as a criminal and family law attorney in his own practice, Judge Putnam joined the Fresno County Public Defender's Office, and eventually the Fresno County District Attorney's Office, where he became a Senior Deputy District Attorney.

He was elected judge of the Municipal Court in 1986, re-elected without opposition in 1992, and again in 1998. He was elevated to the Superior Court by court consolidation, and re-elected in 2004.

Judge Putnam's contributions to the legal community are many, including the development of the ACTION Center for Court patrons. The success of the Center earned the Fresno Superior Court the 2007 KELPS Award for Innovative Contributions made by an Individual Court in California in the Administration of Justice.

Judge Putnam retired from full-time service in December of 2006, but continued to sit by assignment until December of 2013. He has been an active Rotary Club member for over 20 years, and was recently awarded the Rotary District Energizer Award, in addition to his club's Terry Huntsman Spirit Award.

## 1985

### Hon. Richard Lee

Like most of his classmates, the Hon. Richard (Dick) Lee had other careers before going to law school. He earned a degree in mechanical engineering and an MBA in 1975, but was intrigued throughout business school with the possibility of studying law. Additional tuition and three more years of school had little appeal at the time, however, so he decided to get on with his life.

It was years later that friend Wally Upton of Kimble MacMichael & Upton enthusiastically encouraged Dick to consider a career change to law. "By then I was married, had one son - our second son came during law school - and a mortgage to pay, but I found myself sitting in Don Fischbach's torts class a week later." Dick says a few months after that, he began a 19-year relationship with Kimble MacMichael & Upton, first as a full-time law clerk, then an associate attorney, and eventually a partner.

Dick's practice at KMU was devoted almost exclusively to construction litigation and bankruptcy. "The law and motion skills I learned as a law clerk formed an excellent foundation for my bankruptcy practice," he said. In 2001, Dick was appointed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to serve as a judge on the US Bankruptcy Court, replacing the Honorable Brett Dorian. Dick says he enjoyed the distinction of being the first SJCL graduate appointed to the federal bench. He plans to retire from his 30+ year law career in July of this year, but says he looks forward to serving the court on "recall" status. Dick says the legal profession has been a blessing to himself and his family. "We now have a grandson in Colorado, and I look forward to the opportunities and challenges of a new season," he says.

Among Dick's fond law school memories are the many friends he made, and his wife's efforts to hold down the fort. "I will always appreciate the many Saturday study days when my wife Kim packed a lunch, loaded up our two small boys, and met me for a picnic on the church lawn (across from the old SJCL building on Shields Ave). Classes were only offered at night then, and I wasn't home much." Dick says it was a long four years, but that his family supported what "we" were doing without complaint. "SJCL is truly a community asset and I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of it."

### Patricia Dupes-Matsumoto

Patricia Dupes-Matsumoto's law degree followed her, rather than the other way around. After graduation she became reacquainted with and married a classmate from her high school in Germany, and then moved to the San Francisco Bay area to take some time off. Shortly after that, a series of extended family emergencies required her to act with power of attorney and executor of estates for several relatives.

Currently, Patricia and her husband volunteer as crew members on the Liberty Ship *SS Jeremiah O'Brien*, in San Francisco. She is also a member of the board of directors, and corporate secretary for the National Liberty Ship Memorial. She has researched and written grants for NLSM.

In addition, Patricia does a considerable amount of research in several facets of past and current law as part of her hobby of genealogy, and as an aspiring writer. Some of her areas of interest include religion, migrations, property ownership, military service, guardianship and the "joys of intestate succession." She still lives in the Bay Area and travels between California and Arizona while serving as guardian and conservator for a relative there. "It's learning Arizona probate law the hard way," she says.

Patricia's fond SJCL memories include the lively study group of Donna Korie, Adina Jantzen, Arida Taylor, Peter Bunting, Jennifer Smith and Charlotte Zylka. She remembers a certain attempt at a "ladylike scaling of the (brick) half wall near the old Shields campus, while wearing a skirt, to get a cup of coffee," and the immortal words of classmate Sharon Lessley-Gilmore after their first experience with "race horse" finals: "I've told everyone I know I'm in law school, what will I doooooo if I just failed?"

She didn't, nor did the rest of the group.

## 1995 Hon. Brian Alvarez

After graduating from Fresno State, Former U.S. Air Force Officer Brian Alvarez was reactivated for Operation Desert Storm. Upon his return to Fresno, he enrolled in SJCL attending law school at night while working days at the Bureau of Investigations at the Fresno County District Attorney's Office. Shortly after passing the bar, he was hired as a Fresno County Deputy District Attorney. He prosecuted a wide variety of criminal cases.

In 1998, he was appointed Public Affairs Officer of the 144th Fighter Wing. He served as Editor-in-Chief for *Flight Lines*, the official monthly magazine of the 144th. Following September 11, 2001, Captain Alvarez was again called into active duty, stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland.

In 2002, he was recruited by the California Attorney General's office as a deputy attorney general, where he investigated and prosecuted crimes by public officials. He became a supervising attorney in May 2008, and created the Fresno AGO Criminal Trial Team, tasked with prosecuting cases throughout Central California. Brian was certified as a specialist in appellate law by the State Bar of California, Board of Legal Specialization. He is the attorney of record in several dozen reported state and federal appellate opinions.

In June of 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Brian to the Fresno

County Superior Court. He currently serves as the Assistant Presiding Judge of the Appellate Division of the Fresno County Superior Court. He also serves as Vice President on the Fresno County Law Library's Board of Trustees.

Judge Alvarez is married to the former Teresa Arteaga. They have two daughters, Jessica, 23, and Daniella, 11. In his spare time, Judge Alvarez enjoys spending time with his family, cycling, long-distance running, snow skiing, reading, learning, and traveling.

## Jerry DeMelo

Kings County Superior Court Commissioner Jerry DeMelo's roots do not hint at his winding and remarkable career path to the field of law. With a childhood spent in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Jerry's talents and experiences are vast. Seeking better opportunities and a quality education for their son, Jerry's parents moved the family to the U.S. when Jerry was twelve. He learned to speak English (he is fluent in five languages) while attending school in Tulare. He did well enough to be admitted to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, where he studied mechanical and nuclear engineering. Jerry served for five years on the submarine *USS Snook*, patrolling the world's oceans during the Cold War. After his service he joined General Electric as a nuclear start-up engineer. The proliferation of nuclear power plants decreased dramatically after the accident at Three Mile Island, so Jerry returned to Visalia to help run his father's chain of one-hour photo labs. For a nuclear engineer, the daily duties at the photo lab were underwhelming. "I went from nuclear power plant systems to photo copier paper jams," Jerry said, "and I was drastically underutilizing my skills." His wife suggested he go to law school. "I was always a logical person," Jerry says. "In discussions with people, they always said I ought to be a lawyer." "As a lover of learning, I knew law would be a good fit. You can never master the law - it's a commitment to a lifetime of learning."

Jerry graduated from SJCL in 1995 with the record for the highest-ever grade point average. In May of 2014, Valedic-

torian Conlin Reis bested Jerry's record by 6/10ths of a percent, which Jerry says is just fine with him. "I made a promise to my father on his deathbed to do my very best and finish law school," Jerry said, "so that's what I did." But he says he's thrilled another law student is starting his career in law at that high level.

Jerry opened his family law practice in Hanford with a goal of serving the community's Spanish and Portuguese speaking population. He was appointed to his commissionership in 2006. A highlight of his career was a case on federal law that was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Although the court denied the appeal, Jerry has the documents that show his case was in the hands of the Justices, the ultimate courtroom pinnacle for any lawyer.

Jerry says he wouldn't change a thing about his life. He has been a commissioner now for longer than he practiced as a lawyer, a mathematical equation he finds hard to believe. Now in the midst of his 5th career, Jerry says he loves his job. He works part-time and is able to travel extensively with his wife and friends leading tours through Israel and Palestine. He has also taken several river cruises through Europe. He loves spending time with his four grown children and three grandchildren, but Jerry says he has no immediate plans to retire. "I have perfect balance in my life - spiritually, personally, and professionally." Jerry says he is living his future... now, and is very happy exactly where he is.

## Rebekah A. Frye

Rebekah Frye relocated to the Bay Area to begin a solo family law practice. In furtherance of her education, she received her LLM in Taxation from Golden Gate University in 2000, and has been a Certified Specialist in Family Law for nearly 10 years. As part of her practice, she serves as a Judge Pro Tem for Santa Clara County. Rebekah focuses mainly on high conflict matters, predominantly those involving child custody disputes, relocations and domestic violence. She has been appointed to represent children in dissolution actions in more than 30 cases.

In 2014, Rebekah and several colleagues received the Henry B. Collada Memorial Award for dedication and commitment to community and the Court system by serving as Minor's Counsel in Santa Clara County. She is a member of the Santa Clara County, San Mateo County and Los Angeles County Bar Associations, and hopes to become a fellow of the AAML (American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers) in the near future.

Rebekah has been married for 18 years to a loving and very patient husband, Colby, and they have one daughter, Courtney, who will be graduating the 8th grade in June. Courtney will attend Notre Dame High School in San Jose in the fall.

Rebekah sums up her special memories of law school this way: "Livingstone's Pub in the Tower District!"

## Eddie Ruiz

Shortly after passing the bar, Eddie Ruiz joined Barker & Associates (now Ciummo & Associates), a criminal defense firm in Fresno. Eddie says he received a great deal of training and experience while at Barker, appearing in court on a daily basis. He received the honor of "Rookie of the Year" from the firm, as well as a pair of cowboy boots when he obtained a not guilty verdict in his first jury trial.

Three years later, he went out on his own and established a law firm in criminal defense as well as personal injury. Shortly thereafter, in 2001, Eddie moved into his current office building. He began handling bankruptcy cases in 2007, just before the recession.

Eddie is married with three children, "two boys and a little princess." He says he is very proud of the fact that he lives and raises his family in the Easton area, dabbling in his hobbies of weekend farming, sporting/school events, and traveling. Eddie has served his community as a Board Member of the Washington Union School District, and as a Little League and Pop Warner coach. He says attending SJCL and becoming an attorney has provided him with many opportunities.

Eddie says his fondest law school memories involve the breaks between classes at the old Shields campus. He and fellow classmates would go to the back parking lot and talk about everything from "school stuff to politics." "That was when I began friendships with some very special people," Eddie says. "Some classmates were twice my age and were beginning second careers, and others were married with children. Some, like me, were just young people who dreamed of practicing law. Some of those classmates have passed away, which makes me cherish those memories that much more."

## Lisa Smittcamp

Lisa Sondergaard Smittcamp is the current District Attorney for Fresno County, having taken office in January of 2015. Lisa has spent the past two decades serving in the public safety community. After working for four years in the major crimes unit of the Madera County DA's office, Lisa joined the Fresno County DA's office, with the general felonies, domestic violence, sexual assault, and homicide units. In 2012 she was honored as an Outstanding Prosecutor.

Lisa's role as Chief Law Enforcement Official of Fresno County requires that she lead a department of approximately 261 employees. She is responsible for managing a budget of \$40 million.

In addition, she is the Chairwoman of the Multi-Agency Gang Enforcement Consortium (MAGEC), a member of the Fresno-Madera Police Chiefs Association, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force, Victim Offender Reconciliation Program Advisory Board, Rape Counseling Services, Community Corrections Partnership Committee, Fresno County Local Justice Coordinating Committee and the Career Technical Education Complex Advisory Committee.

Lisa's commitment to the community includes service on the Board of Trustees for the Marjaree Mason Center, Kullungu for Congo (a nonprofit dedicated to supporting education and building

schools in The Peoples Republic of Congo), and San Joaquin College of Law. She is married to Brent Smittcamp and they have two active children.

## 2005 Claire Carroll

Claire Carroll has worked for the United States District Court in Fresno since graduating in 2005. She manages a large caseload of Section 1983 cases concerning prisoner civil rights, "I love my job!" with Magistrate Judge Gary S. Austin, she says. Her duties include screening cases, research and writing, and assisting at trial. "Every day is a challenge due to the variety of cases and changes in the law," Claire says. "It's a bonus to work in the beautiful federal courthouse."

Claire's husband Devin is an entomologist who assists farmers with insect control in vineyards and orchards up and down the San Joaquin Valley. "He can identify almost any creepy-crawly, and he loves to study them in the field," said Claire. With four grown children and two young granddaughters, Claire says she and Devin spend lots of time traveling and having family get-togethers. "Grandkids are the best!"

Looking back on her law school days, Claire says her four years at SJCL were intense, but she treasures the many lasting friendships she made. "I have fond memories of the creative learning, including skits and games in Judge Chittick's evidence class. I owe many, many thanks to my teachers at SJCL, who taught me well. As for the bar exam, I'm grateful every day that I never have to take it again, and I will never mind paying my bar dues!"

Claire enjoys reading and quilting in her spare time, and also going to movies. She admits she and Devin are hooked on certain television programs, which she includes in her list of hobbies.

## Marcella Downing

When Marcella Downing's husband, Robert Howk, opened his own law practice in 1996, she used her skills in accounting, research and counseling to play a key role. Once she enrolled in law



school herself, she realized her personal experiences as an advocate for the elderly and disabled would lead her to find her passion. “I saw a lot of people who were being taken advantage of, and I decided to do something about it,” she said.

In the 10 years since law school, Marcie and Robert have worked together as Howk & Downing, LLP in an estate planning and life care planning practice. In addition to traditional estate planning, probate, and conservatorships, the firm advocates for veterans with disabilities, provides special needs planning, and elder law. Marcie cared for eight family members who were critically ill, two of which she cared for during her first year of law school. She realized then she wanted to practice law “in a more holistic way.” “We look at the whole person (when considering planning for the elderly and disabled), which matters a great deal,” she said. Marcie has conducted meticulous research into resources, both public and private, for those needing care. She says the field of life care planning for those with chronic conditions is emerging as a major area of law as our population ages. The “sandwich generation” is dealing with aging children with such conditions as autism and parents with end of life issues.

Marcie has served on the national board of the Life Care Planning Law Firms Association, and has co-authored a chapter on ethics with husband Robert in the book, *Estate Planning Strategies, Collective Wisdom, Proven Techniques*. In the first few years of practice, she served on a committee reviewing classes and materials for the Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB), giving feedback and suggestions for improvement of materials and classes.

Marcie and Robert currently mentor an SJCL student who is employed with Howk & Downing.

Of her law school years, Marcie remembers a certain Contracts exam that

almost did her in. She read through the entire test and realized she was going to fail. She sat there wondering how she would explain why she failed law school to family and friends. She seriously considered getting up and leaving then and there, but in the end she took the test and got her highest grade ever, qualifying for Law Review. “I learned to suit up, show up, and not to give up.”

Marcie says she enrolled in SJCL because it was closest to home, without even knowing it was actually considered a good school.

Marcie and Robert have a 28-year-old son who is in the Air Force. They live on 28 acres in the foothills where they enjoy bird watching, nature walks, and socializing with friends.

## **Sherrie Flynn**

After law school, Sherrie Flynn initially practiced law with Baker, Manock and Jensen, PC, primarily in general business litigation and intellectual property law (IP). In 2008, she passed the patent bar and, a few years later, went to work for the Law Offices of Andrew Fortney, an IP boutique firm. There her focus was entirely on intellectual property. Sherrie moved to Coleman & Horowitz, LLP in 2013, where she continues to practice intellectual property law, including registration and enforcement of patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets, and also represents clients in false advertising, unfair competition, licensing and contract disputes.

In 2014, Sherrie was named a Rising Star by Super Lawyers, and also received the Wiley W. Manuel Pro Bono Services Certificate for her volunteer work.

In addition, Sherrie serves on the board of the Central Valley Business Incubator. She has served as a dedicated organizer of SJCL’s former Race Judicata, as well as the Two Cities Marathon, and continues to volunteer at local running races supporting a variety of charitable causes.

She also does pro bono work through Central California Legal Services.

Sherrie says one of her favorite activities at SJCL was participating in the Roger J. Traynor Moot Court Team Competition with Professor (now Judge) Conklin and Professor (now Magistrate Judge) Boone as coaches. “We had a fun trip to UC Hastings in San Francisco and even managed to come in 3rd overall in Oral Argument,” Sherri said. “I also remember laughing a lot in Judge Chittick’s evidence class – she told some great stories!”

Sherri has a son, Christopher, who is studying enology at Fresno State. In her spare time Sherri likes to run, cycle, and swim. Two years ago she completed her first full Ironman Triathlon.

## **Daniel Martin**

Daniel Martin began practicing criminal defense law shortly after being admitted to practice. He worked for the Alternate Defense Office in Fresno as well as in his own law firm until 2013. He was admitted to practice in several federal districts because he represented clients in multiple states around the country. He currently works with Richard A. Ciummo and Associates in Madera, as Deputy Defense Attorney.

For the past year, he has served as a member of the Central Committee of the Fresno County Democratic Party. In May of 2015, he was a delegate to the 2015 Democratic Convention in Anaheim.

When he’s not working he enjoys gardening and taking care of his chickens and dogs with partner Michael Conley.

Daniel remembers studying at SJCL with Mike Elder and other study partners during his first year. Daniel says he is grateful for the education he received at SJCL, and the opportunities he has enjoyed because of attending law school there.

# Thank you for your support!

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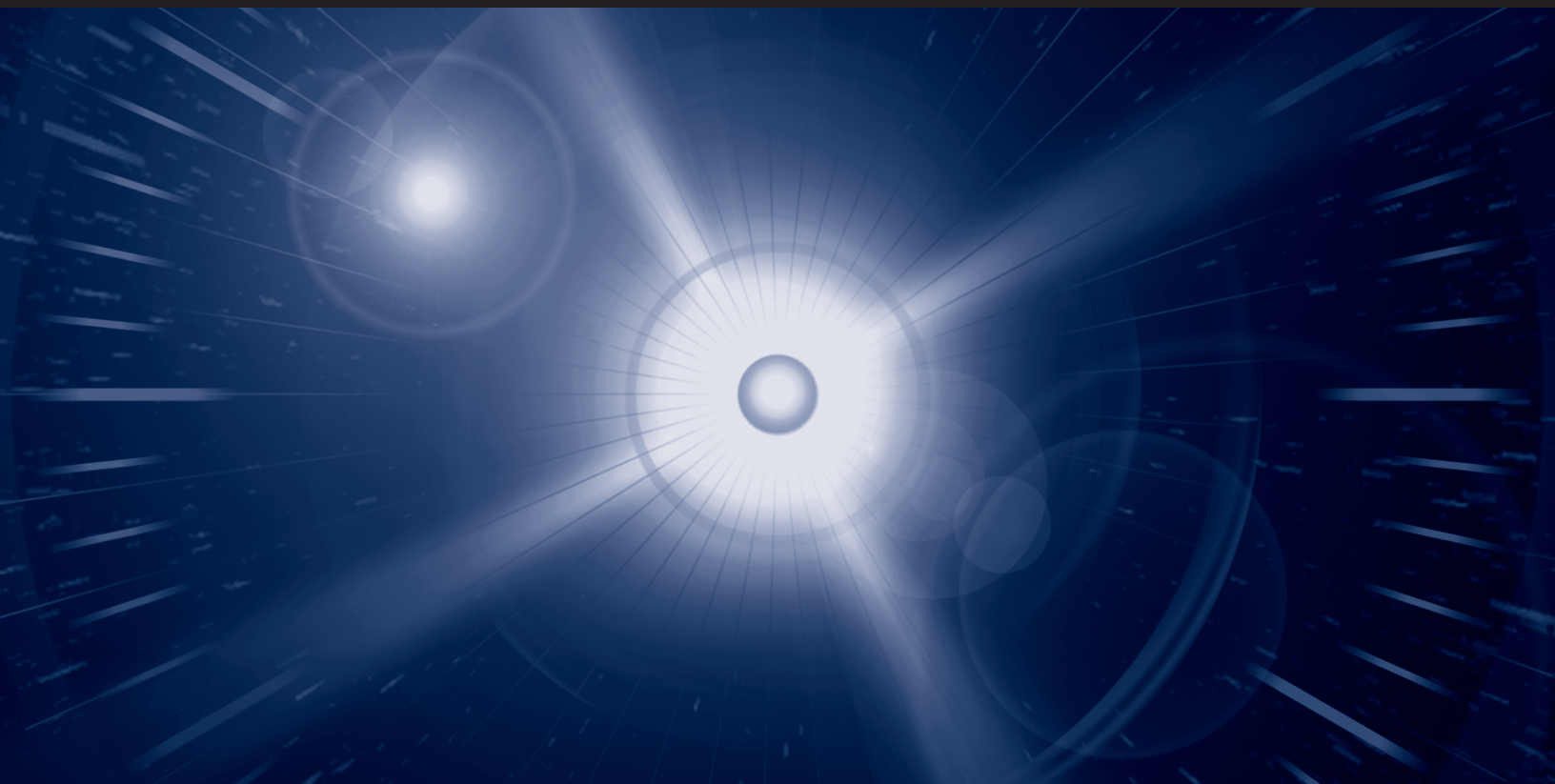
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