



# Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

Volume XXVII, Number 4

## Winter 2016

- 2 NALC
- 3 Scholarships
- 5 Dear Faux Amici
- 6 So Cite Me!
- 7 Barpassers
- 8 Law Review
- 10 Alumni Visit
- 11 CCBA
- 12 Senior Law Day
- 14 On the Move
- 15 Giving Back

## Hall of Fame

*Judge Georgia York and Deborah Coe Hood were inducted into the SJCL Alumni Hall of Fame on Thursday, September 15th at Fresno's Federal Courthouse.*

San Joaquin College of Law congratulates the two latest inductees to its Hall of Fame: the Hon. Georgia York, a 1978 graduate, and attorney Deborah Coe Hood, Valedictorian for the Class of 1991.

Judge York was unable to attend her induction into the Hall of Fame on September 15th at the Robert E. Coyle Federal Courthouse. As Keynote Speaker the Hon. Jonathan Conklin noted, not only has she retired and relocated to Idaho, but also she was on a flight during the time of the Induction Ceremony, meaning even "Facetime" was impossible. He added "either she would be arrested, or crash the plane."

He read a statement she sent in gratitude for her induction:

"My San Joaquin College of Law experience was a pivotal one in my life. I was a working class kid, and I entered the class of 1978 hoping to meet the academic challenge, and clueless about what the future might hold for me professionally. An interest in the law got me to SJCL, and thankfully, I had the focus and determination to make it for the long haul. SJCL prepared me to pass the Bar, and to navigate a legal career that was capped off by 16 years as an Administrative Law Judge for the State of California.

"I was well rewarded for my efforts in other respects as well. Friends made



**Deborah Coe Hood** (Law '91)

during those law school years are still a part of my life today. My wonderful ex-husband Ron Henderson (an SJCL alumni of course), and I produced my greatest joy, our daughter Erin. So I owe much to my SJCL experience!

"Thanks again to the Committee for selecting me for the Hall of Fame. I am honored."

Judge York originally had no aspirations to be a lawyer. She was a criminology/corrections major, but wasn't especially excited until she took a few required law classes. An astute law instructor, who taught at both Fresno State and SJCL, took note of her writing talent and encouraged her to consider law school.



**Honorable Georgia York** (Law '78)

Upon graduating and passing the bar, Judge York worked for the Fresno County Public Defender's office, but moved on to the Fresno County Counsel's office upon realizing criminal law was not for her. She worked there for eleven years, then spent two years as a researcher at the Fifth District Court of Appeal before applying to the California Unemployment Appeals Board as an Administrative Law Judge. She remained there for the last 16 years of her career.

Judge Conklin introduced Ms. Hood by admitting he had sent an e-mail to other judges, asking their opinion of her. Phrases like "capable and responsible," and "consummate professional" were the

[See Hall of Fame page 13](#)

# NALC Builds a Legacy of Service

*Linda Barreto (Law '14) is currently working as a direct representation attorney with the national nonprofit organization "Kids in Need of Defense" (KIND).*

Prior to working with KIND, Linda worked as an associate attorney at Lazaro Salazar Law, Inc. where she handled a variety of immigration cases. Linda's first exposure to immigration law was through SJCL's New American Legal Clinic (NALC) where she gained valuable hands on experience working on immigration cases. Working with NALC grew Linda's passion to help and serve the immigrant community in the Valley.

At KIND, Linda has expanded her service by representing some of the most vulnerable people in our community, children in deportation



proceedings. Children who are in deportation proceedings do not have a right to counsel and those who are unrepresented are FIVE times more likely to lose their cases. More than half of immigrant children do not have attorneys to represent them. Without pro bono

attorneys like Linda who provide representation at no cost, the majority still have to go through the process alone. As the daughter of a Mexican immigrant, Linda is committed to helping the migrant community and hopes to continue to serve them for many years to come.

## College of the Sequoias tours NALC



(L-R): **Osiris Deleon**, *Counselling Assistant*; **Maria Pizano**, *COS student*; **Marilu Romani**, *COS student*; **Eduardo Perez Ugarte**, *COS student*; **Monica Felix-Mora**, *COS ESL Counselor*; and **Josh Longoria**, *NALC Senior Client Services Coordinator*

Students and staff from the College of the Sequoias toured the New American Legal Clinic in October, learning about its services and exploring careers as immigration attorneys.

They also learned how the NALC clinic has assisted over 270 legal permanent residents in completing their applications to become United States citizens in this calendar year alone.

### Board of Trustees

Douglas Noll, J.D., *Chair*, Ross Borba, Jr., *Vice Chair*, Melissa L. White, J.D., *Secretary/Treasurer*, Brande Gustafson, J.D., *Alumni Representative*, Richard Caglia, J.D., Hon. Jane Cardoza, Deborah Coe Hood, J.D., Greg Durbin, J.D., Jan L. Kahn, J.D., Anthony Mendes, J.D., Hon. Robert Oliver (Retired), Lisa A. Smittcamp, J.D., Steven Spencer, J.D., Dennis Veeh, CPA, David Weiland, J.D., Bob Whalen, J.D., and Nick Zinkin, J.D.

# Inter Alia

Volume XXVII, Number 4

### Editorial Staff

Janice Pearson  
Justin Atkinson  
Missy McKai Cartier  
Mark Enns  
Lonzetta Hightower  
Joyce Morodomi  
Diane Skouti

### Contributing Writers

Missy McKai Cartier  
Diane Skouti

### Design & Production

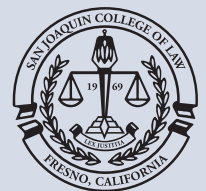
Mark Enns

### Photography

Missy McKai Cartier  
Howard Watkins

### Publication

Professional Print & Mail



San Joaquin College of Law

901 5th Street  
Clovis, CA 93612  
T: 559/323-2100  
F: 559/323-5566  
www.sjcl.edu

# SJCL Offers Hmong Language Scholarship

*San Joaquin College of Law is excited to offer a \$5,000 tuition-reduction scholarship to an incoming student who is proficient in the Hmong language.*



Imagine your new home is a strange land with a strange language, strange culture, and even stranger laws. Paul Mullen (Law '01), VLSP Supervising Attorney for Central California Legal Services, has had the experience of being counsel for Hmong clients. He says the challenge goes even deeper than just trying to speak effectively with them. He worried about “how they were perceiving what was happening to them [in the legal system], coming from a very, very different cultural perspective.”

San Joaquin College of Law is excited to offer a \$5,000 tuition-reduction

scholarship to an incoming student who is proficient in the Hmong language. In the Valley, there is a strong need for attorneys who possess this language skill; Fresno is home to the second-largest Hmong population in the United States. The Law School notes that Hmong is the third-most commonly-spoken language among the clients of the New American Legal Clinic, necessitating translators because there are very few Hmong-language attorneys in the area.

Mullen takes it a step further; he believes the successful candidate could also serve as a role model, “reaching out, under-

standing, and representing” the Hmong community’s interests more effectively.

The mission of San Joaquin College of Law is to educate and develop highly skilled attorneys and problem solvers who will benefit their communities through public and private service. The Hmong Language Scholarship seeks to aid prospective attorneys who are proficient in the Hmong language so that community may be better served.

The deadline to apply is June 30, 2017. For more information and an application, visit our website ([www.sjcl.edu](http://www.sjcl.edu)).

---

## Full-Time Faculty

Justin B. Atkinson, Andreas Borgeas, Christine A. Goodrich, Denise M. Kerner, Gregory Olson, Janice L. Pearson, Jeffrey G. Purvis, Rose Safarian, and Alicia Diaz Wrest

## Adjunct Faculty

Jeremy R. Aliason, Thomas H. Armstrong, Lawrence M. Artenian, Arthur G. Baggett, Jr., Barry J. Bennett, Alyson A. Berg, Hon. Stanley A. Boone, David M. Camenson, Daniel E. Casas, Phillip H. Cherney, Hon. Erin M. Childs, Lisa B. Coffman, Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Hon. Mark E. Cullers, Niki Cunningham, Matthew R. Dardenne, Matthew Farmer, David J. Guy, Jason P. Hamm, Sara Hedgpeth-Harris, Paul Kerkorian, Kathi Kesselman, Stefanie J. Krause, Andrew S. Kucera, Michael R. Linden, Mark Masters, Steven McQuillan, Devon McTeer, Rebecca Medina, Mark D. Miller, David Mugridge, James Mugridge, John M. O’Connor, Paul M. Parvanian, Nelson Richards, Dan Rogers, Peter Rooney, Babak Shakoory, Hon. Michael Sheltzer, Leah Tuisavalalo, Anastasya Uskov, George J. Vasquez, and Kacye Wall

# BreAnne Ruelas wins Hanson Scholarship

*SJCL student BreAnne Ruelas receives the Hanson Scholarship from Scholarship Committee Representative Nancy Stegall (Law '96) on November 3, 2016.*

Congratulations to SJCL student BreAnne Ruelas, winner of the 2016 Justice Pauline Davis Hanson Scholarship. From the program: “BreAnne Ruelas is a third year law student at San Joaquin College of Law (SJCL). During her time at SJCL, she has been involved in the Student Bar Association, she was published in Volume 25 of the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review (SJALR)*, and is currently an editor of the *SJALR*.”

“She has been a law clerk at Hammerschmidt Broughton Law Corporation since her first year of law school, a firm that specializes in criminal defense.

“After graduation from law school, she hopes to practice in Fresno as a criminal law attorney. She has interests in both criminal law prosecution and criminal law defense.”



**BreAnne Ruelas (3L) and Nancy Stegall (Law '96)**

# George A. Hopper Memorial Scholarship



**Jeff Castleton (4L)** receives the *George A. Hopper Memorial Scholarship* from **Nolan Kane**

Fresno County Young Lawyers Association President Nolan Kane (right) presents the George A. Hopper Memorial Scholarship to SJCL student Jeff Castleton. Castleton previously clerked with the Hon. Brian L. McCabe of the Superior Court in Merced County and is currently clerking at the Castleton Law Firm and the Days Law Firm.

He has served as Executive Editor for the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*, where his Comment, “*Central California Irrigation Districts: Are They the New Standard Oil?*” was recently published.

He hopes to practice criminal defense after his graduation this spring.

## Staff

Janice Pearson, *Dean*, Justin Atkinson, *Academic Dean*, Missy McKai Cartier, *Public Information Officer*, Victoria Denny, *Administrative Assistant to the Deans*, Matthew Dillard, *Maintenance Assistant*, Mark Enns, *Senior Graphic Designer & Web Developer*, Kenia Garcia, *Client Service Coordinator*, Kerry Hanson, *Head of Public Services*, Lonzetta Hightower, *Student Services Assistant*, Jeannie Lewis, *Director of Financial Aid*, Joshua Longoria, *Senior Client Services Coordinator*, Joyce Morodomi, *Director of Student Services*, Aracely Mota, *Administrative Assistant/Receptionist*, Jared Nelson, *Senior Network Systems Engineer*, Lisa Nilmeier, *Assistant to CFO*, Beth Pitcock, *Director of Human Resources and Compliance*, Carlyn Robbins, *Administrative Assistant/Receptionist*, Cyndee Robinson, *Technical Services Librarian*, Rick Rodriguez, *Facilities Manager*, Diane Skouti, *Alumni Coordinator*, Patricia Smith, *Law Coordinator*, Diane Steel, *Director of Admissions*, Jill Waller-Randles, *Chief Financial Officer*, Derron Wilkinson, *Chief Information Officer*, Alicia Diaz Wrest, *Law Library Director*, Debbie Yakovetic, *Staff Accountant*

# Dear Faux Amici

By **Jeffrey G. Purvis**, *Constitutional Law Professor*

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 perfervid 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](mailto:jpurvis@sjcl.edu).

The October edition of “Valley Views on the Law” is a replay of my Constitution Day lecture on September 21st titled “Don’t Vote! Let the rich people run America, as God and the Framers intended!” If you missed it, you can still hear it on the SJCL Multimedia Page at <http://www.sjcl.edu/index.php/news/kfcf>. Video of the event will also be airing on CMAC.

## Dear Professors

*I’m trying to figure out the Electoral College, which is as I understand it the mechanism by which the President and Vice-President of the United States are selected. Is it correct that the voters don’t vote directly for the candidate of their choice, that they vote for “electors,” who then get together and determine who will become President and Vice-President? Why would the Founders of the Constitution have set it up that way? What if the electors I vote for don’t make the choice I want them to make? I think we should just scrap the Electoral College and vote directly for President--the person who receives the most votes wins. What could possibly be wrong with that?*

—*Bush Walker, East Rabbit’s Foote, TX*



**Rych Withers**, *KFCF Executive Director* adjusts the microphone for **Jeffrey G. Purvis**, *Professor of Law*, in advance of his annual Constitution Day lecture.

Mr. Walker, to understand the Founders’ actions in this regard, one must be aware of the political thinking that influenced them, and their own natures. Many scholars believe that the Founders were influenced by what has been called the Civic Republic Tradition, deriving in part from the Ancient Greek notion that politics was intended to instill virtue in its participants. The Civic Republican Tradition did not value participation by all adults in political matters. A small group of educated, propertied men would select from among themselves the best leaders at a local level, then these leaders would advance, based on their merits, to higher and higher offices, ultimately leading the nation. Women and non-whites were ruled by passions that would not lead to good decisions, and white males with no property could be controlled by the more powerful men via economic pressure. Thus, wealthy white males would control the government, and everyone else would accept this either because they had no choice or they had been cowed into believing it was appropriate.

The original proposal at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 was for Congress to select the President and Vice-President. This plan was rejected, in part,

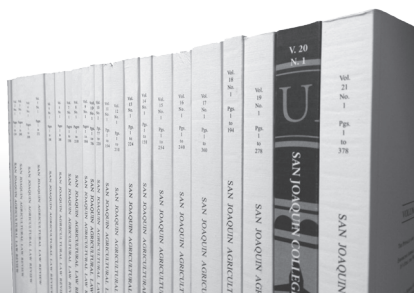
because it was seen to give Congress too much power over the Presidency. Instead, a plan was proposed for the election of President and Vice-President to be by a group of people apportioned among the states in the same numbers as their representatives in Congress, but chosen by each state “in such manner as its Legislature may direct.”

Some Founders were influenced by the Liberal Tradition, which emphasized individual rights, and suggested that direct popular election should be used, but the Southern states, with much smaller voting populations (many of their inhabitants being slaves), would have objected strongly. Since the slave states received representation in Congress for three-fifths of their total slave population, so those states would not be at a disadvantage compared to states without slavery.

James Madison felt that this system, which combined some aspects of popular vote with selection of officeholders by elites, would prevent the dangers of “factions” taking control of the government. Madison defined a “faction” as “a number of citizens whether amounting to a majority or minority of the whole,

See Constitution Day page 13

# So, Cite Me!



This synopsis of a recent student comment featured in the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* is part of an ongoing series for Fresno County Bar Association's Bar Bulletin. The *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*, founded in 1991, is the oldest *Agricultural Law Review* in the nation. It is published annually by students of San Joaquin College of Law, and presents student and scholar works on legal topics of current interest to those in agriculture, government, business and law. Its articles and comments have been cited by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, the California Supreme Court, the Minnesota Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal for the Fifth District of California and the New Mexico Court of Appeals among others.

## Walking on a Slippery Slope: Desperate Farmers Turn to Oil Wastewater to Irrigate Drought Stricken Crops

By **Ryan Lopez**, *Managing Editor, San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*

As a result of the longstanding drought in California, farmers have turned to the oil wastewater byproduct created by oil fields in Kern County to irrigate their crops. The drought conditions have produced record low precipitation levels while simultaneously reaching record high temperatures. With the enduring heat wave and overall lack of precipitation to replenish natural underground aquifers, surface and groundwater supplies are now at record low levels. The snowpack, which typically supplies a significant amount of the water used by cities and farmers, has also been negatively affected by the drought and is similarly at historically low levels. The drought conditions have instilled a sense of desperation in local farmers because their success in producing crops hinges on their ability to irrigate crops, which has now been threatened.

Home to one of the most prolific stretches of agricultural land in the world, and providing over \$6 billion dollars in crop revenue per year, Kern County also boasts some of the richest oil fields in the United States. With bil-

lions of dollars in revenue on the line, desperate farmers have turned to the use of oil wastewater, an oily and salty byproduct of the oil drilling and extraction processes. In an effort to combat California's crushing drought conditions, some local farmers have struck a deal to purchase the oil wastewater as a means of agricultural irrigation. While this may seem like a potential solution to the challenges farmers have been facing with the drought, past testing results reveal the presence of organic heavy metals, methyl chloride, chromium, selenium, and arsenic in oil wastewater. These elements have all been known to cause various forms of cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, skin lesions, damage to multiple organs, and in extreme cases, death. The potential for such substantial health risks begs the question of whether irrigation that employs the use of oil wastewater is safe for the soil, the crops, and ultimately, the consumers who eat those crops. The enactment of more stringent testing guidelines and regulations is vital to protect these interests.

The complete Comment is available online, along with the entire 25th Volume, and the previous 24 Volumes at [www.sjcl.edu/sjalr](http://www.sjcl.edu/sjalr). Professional articles are always welcome. Contact Volume 26 *SJALR* Executive Editor Jaskaran Gill at [jaskaran.gill@student.sjcl.edu](mailto:jaskaran.gill@student.sjcl.edu) for more information.

# SJCL Barpasser Champagne Toast Tradition

*How many San Joaquin College of Law graduates passed the July Bar? The State Bar isn't saying, but that didn't stop the Law School from toasting those who announced their own good news on November 21st.*

The traditional Champagne Reception takes place three days after bar results are released to individual takers. While the night started with 18 Barpassers listed, two more came forward to be celebrated. Another called in the next day and then another turned up at the bar admission ceremony, for a total of 22.

Many reflected on the wild celebrations which had taken place over the weekend. Meanwhile, Barpasser Craig Waters says he and his wife “celebrated as much as parents can.” Immediately after receiving word he had passed, they went out to dinner with Gordon Park. Park had coached both Craig and his wife on the Fresno State Mock Trial Team. Craig now helps coach the current team. He says Park had a big influence on both him and his wife. His wife will graduate from SJCL next year.

Waters is not the only SJCL Barpasser with family connections to the Law School; Jennifer Oleksa’s mother, Michelle Oleksa (Law ’99), and aunt,



“And the first year is free!” **Kristina Garabedian** (Law ’14), *Alumni Association Treasurer*, congratulates barpasser **Skye Emery** and invites her to join the ranks.



FRONT ROW (L-R): **Caren Curtiss, Mao Lee, Sandra Garcia, and Skye Emery**  
MIDDLE ROW (L-R): **Nellie Peloian, Nichola Krebsbach, Whitney Barnick, Deni Boeve, and Jennifer Oleksa**

BACK ROW (L-R): **Amanda Hines, Craig Waters, William Chaddock, Michelle Errecart, Matthew Green, Alex Newsum, and John Miser**

ALSO PASSING BUT NOT PICTURED: **Chineme Anyadiegwu, Brandon Hinton, Joshua Longoria, Victoria Maga, Sara Santoyo, and Andrew Trippel**

Suzanne Golden (Law ’01), are both alumni, while barpasser Andrew Trippel’s father, Craig Trippel (Law ’80), is also an alumni.

Waters and Oleksa also share something in common with 75% of the Barpassers who attended the Champagne Reception: both had job offers in hand. Waters becomes an Associate Attorney for Cuttone & Associates while Oleksa is now a Deputy Attorney General. Other Barpassers with “you pass, you’re hired” offers include Whitney Barnick, who becomes an Associate Attorney with John F. Hodge; Caren Curtiss, who takes a position as Associate Attorney with Herr Pedersen & Berglund; Michelle Errecart, now hired as an Associate Attorney at the Law Office of Melanie

Aldridge; Matthew Green becomes an Associate Attorney at Gillett Law, Nichola Krebsbach becomes an Associate Attorney with Horswill Mederos Soares & Ormonde; Amanda Moran takes a position as Associate Attorney at the Law Office of David Mugridge; Alex Newsum becomes an Associate Attorney at McCormick Barstow; and Nellie Peloian becomes an Associate Attorney at the Law Office of James Peloian. Skye Emery will make a move from her position as Law Clerk at the Merced County District Attorney’s Office to become an Associate Attorney at the Casey Aitchison Law Firm.

If you are an SJCL July 2016 Barpasser not listed, please contact the Law School for a cup of kudos!

# Law Review Release Reception

By **Allison Ryan**, *Editor-in-Chief*,  
*San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*

The *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review (SJALR)* 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 *SJALR* released its first publication in 1990, making it the first student-edited agricultural law review in the nation. The topics discussed in each volume are always of current interest to those in agriculture, government, business and law.

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. These are essential to success in the legal community. We are additionally always looking for professional articles from the legal community to lead each volume of this outstanding journal.

On October 28, 2016, we had the pleasure of celebrating the release of the 25th Volume of the *SJALR*. Thanks to everyone who joined us at the Release Reception!



(L-R): **Justin Vecchiarelli** (Law '14), **Sally Noxon Vecchiarelli** (Law '15), *Vol. 24 Editor-in-Chief*; **Jonalyn Young**; and **Mandy Kendzora** (Law '15), *Vol. 24 Staff Member*



(L-R): **Mao Lee** (Law '16), *Vol. 25 Production Editor*; **Virginia Madrid-Salazar** (Law '16), *Vol. 25 Editor-In-Chief*; and **Jennifer Oleksa** (Law '16), *Vol. 25 Assistant Editor-In-Chief*



**Jas Gill** (4L), *Vol. 26 Executive Editor* and **Ryan Petty** (Law '16) *Vol. 25 Articles Editor*



**Jennifer Oleksa** (Law '16), *Vol. 25 Assistant Editor-In-Chief* and **Michael Kerr** (4L).





(L-R): **Ryan Lopez** (3L), Vol. 26 Managing Editor; **Monique Taylor** (2L), Candidate; **Allison Ryan** (4L), Vol. 26 Editor-in-Chief; **Kuljit Singh** (4L), Vol. 26 Production Editor; **Courtney DiPinto** (2L), Candidate; **BreAnne Ruelas** (3L), Vol. 26 Notes & Comments Editor; **John Soares** (2L), Candidate; **Raquel Busani** (3L), Candidate; and **Jaskaran Gill** (4L), Vol. 26 Executive Editor



**Emilio Avellaneda** (2L) and **Mao Lee** (Law '16), Vol. 25 Production Editor



**John Mesrobian** (Law '79) and his wife, **Barbara**, are surrounded by **Phil Tavlian** (Law '80) and his wife, **Linda**.



(L-R): **Carmen Kalashian** (Law '16), Staff Member Vol. 23 and Vol. 24; **Virginia Madrid-Salazar** (Law '16), Vol. 25 Editor-In-Chief; and her husband, **Mark Salazar**.



President & Publisher of the *Business Journal* **Gordon Webster Jr.**, and his daughter, *Business Journal* Circulation Manager **Ashley Webster**.

# 25th Volume

## Articles

*The Mandatory Mediation and Conciliation Act: A Partisan Remedy Disguised as a Resource for Neutral Dispute Resolution*  
Aaron Castleton

## Comments

*Groundwater Managed: California Takes Its First Step Towards Groundwater Sustainability*  
Jaskaran Gill

*Walking on a Slippery Slope: Desperate Farmers Turn to Oil Wastewater to Irrigate Drought Stricken Crops*  
Ryan Lopez

*Organized Robbery: How Federal Marketing Orders Amount to Unconstitutional Takings Without Just Compensation*  
BreAnne Ruelas

*You Are the Employer Even If You're Not: Joint Employment Under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Act*  
Allison Ryan

*Unilateral Curtailment of Water Rights: Why the State Water Resource Control Board is Overstepping its Jurisdiction*  
Kuljit Singh

## Moot Court Briefs

2015 Best Brief  
Amanda Kendorza, J.D.  
and Skye Giacomini Emery

The complete volume is available online at [www.sjcl.edu/sjalr](http://www.sjcl.edu/sjalr)

# Fresno's "Mothership of Innovation" Affords Opportunities in Law

*Jordan Penner (Law '14) is surrounded by creative energy. Even the walls where he works can talk.*

Artwork and whiteboards cover every inch of space. Inspiration and creation happen around every corner. If you are even the slightest bit "cool," you've probably heard about Bitwise Industries in downtown Fresno. Their website provides a summary for the uninformed (aka the "un-cool"), that defines who they are: *Smart People + World Class Resources = Awesome Stuff.*

Giant lettering on the side of the "clubhouse" at Van Ness and Inyo proclaim Bitwise the "motherhip of technological education, collaboration, and innovation in Fresno." Jordan's division, Geekwise Academy, is one of three (Shift3 Technologies and Hashtag are the other two) that are designed to provide what is missing from the Central Valley's tech industry scene: education, execution, and place. The mission is to empower the next generation of tech leaders. If that weren't ambitious enough, a by-product of the mission is to make Fresno a world-class global tech hub, which is already in progress.

A flow chart on the website shows how raw talent and self-proclaimed geeks of every sort are input into Bitwise's education and work space components in order to meet the needs of the business community. Companies and schools (including Fresno Pacific University) come to Bitwise looking for technological education, software development, workspace, and solutions. Jordan says it's like a "football field for nerds," a group to which he proudly belongs. "We are deliberate in creating opportunities for people who want to work in technology, regardless of their background, or ability to pay for an education" in all facets of tech, Jordan says. The resulting jobs and businesses that are created contribute to the fastest growing industry in the world.



Jordan says he has always been fascinated with the tech industry, and has many friends working in the field. Skills developed through his JD degree are applied on a daily basis and Jordan foresees working on software for law firms. Bitwise co-founder and CEO Jake Soberal is an attorney who, along with co-founder Irma Olguin Jr., a software engineer and computer scientist, envision a technology hub that rivals the Silicon Valley. Jordan says Irma wanted to create a reason for people to know about Fresno.

Just walking the halls at Bitwise is an experience like no other. Over 100 tech companies are housed in Bitwise's two locations, which comprise a Google-esq collaborative workspace. The vibe at the South Stadium campus is infectious with amenities like cool music, technology education center, law firm, shipping center, gym, café, numerous conference

rooms, extensive game room/lounge, a Desk Hotel, membership community work space, and a 200 seat theatre that was once a concrete car ramp.

Jordan says he loves what he's doing and is excited for what is to come in the near future. Similar to the way SJCL provides an excellent legal education right here in the valley, Bitwise and the Geekwise Academy strive to combat the brain drain of savvy techies who want great opportunities in the field.

After graduating from SJCL, Jordan chose to stay in Fresno when many of his friends left for more famed areas. "People shouldn't have to leave Fresno for tech opportunities," Jordan says. "The classes here are taught by practicing tech experts, much like SJCL faculty who are attorneys," he said. "I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

## On Campus Interviews



(L-R): **Kelsey Peterson**, *Deputy DA*; **Richard Burchett**, *Deputy DA*; **Stacey Phillips**, *Deputy DA*; and **Traci Fritzler-Kirkorian** (Law '97), *Chief Deputy District Attorney*

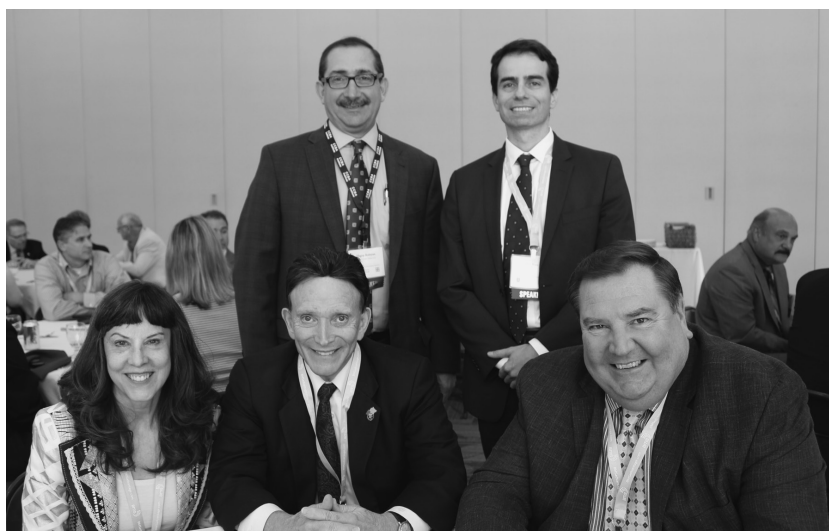
SJCL would like to thank the Fresno County District Attorney's Office for its mentoring and opportunities offered to our students and grads. On October 25th, that tradition continued when On Campus Interviews were conducted with several current law students being considered for internship placements for the Spring 2017 semester.

Internship opportunities offer law students the ability to gain invaluable experience under the supervision of practicing attorneys and judges. Students are often given unique opportunities for placement because of our significant alumni base, which includes practitioners in all areas of the law.

## Central California Bankruptcy Institute

"Pearls of Wisdom" were shared among bankruptcy attorneys and CPA's at the Central California Bankruptcy Institute's 30th Annual Institute in the fall. Some 25 speakers presented 12 sessions with topics ranging from the "Psychology of Representing Consumer Debtors," to "Ethics Issues for the Bankruptcy Insomniac," and the "State of the District."

More than sixty attorneys and CPA's took part in the two day MCLE seminar, with some playing in the annual pre-institute golf tournament at Dragon Fly Golf Club, the Wednesday before.



The Central California Bankruptcy Institute and San Joaquin College of Law would like to thank all those attended and presented at this year's Bankruptcy Institute MCLE event September 21-23rd. Pictured above are five of the presenters grabbing a lunch break, including (L-R): **Susan Freeman**, **Hon. Barry Russell**, **Hagop Bedoyan**, **Hon. Rene Lastreto II.**, and **Ori Katz**.

# Alumni Association's Senior Citizens' Law Day

The Annual Senior Citizens' Law Day provided information and limited legal services to some 50 seniors on a Saturday morning in October. One attendee's comments, "It's really great having all this information – I feel powerful now," speaks volumes about the value of this community service, not to mention the time volunteered by Alumni Association Board members, guest speakers, Central California Legal Service volunteers, and SJCL students.



(L-R): **Nicea Bates** (Law '12), *Alumni Board Member*; **Scott Darling** (Law '10); *Alumni Board Member*; **Joy Dockter** (Law '10), *Speaker*; **David Camenson**, *Speaker*; and **Faith Lisle-Driscoll** (Law '13), *Alumni Board Member*

Special thanks to presenters Deborah Boyett (Law '01) of Walter and Wilhelm, CCLS Attorney Joy Dockter (Law '10), and SJCL Professor David Camenson from the Law Office of David Camenson.



**Deborah Boyett** (Law '01) of the Walter & Wilhelm Law Group spoke on Estate Planning.

Thanks also to attorneys Paul Mullen (Law '01), Agnieszka Gill (Law '06), Jennifer Mele (Law '10), Chris Goodness, Paulette Janian, Megan Brown (Law '15), Charles Palmer (Law '13), Faith Lisle-Driscoll (Law '13), Scott Darling (Law '10), and Nicea Bates (Law '12).



**Joy Dockter** (Law '10) of CCLS answers questions on Medicare/Medi-Cal.



**Paul Mullen** (Law '01), *Supervising Attorney of the Voluntary Legal Services Program at Central California Legal Services*, works with students and event attendees.



Law students **Rena Harrison** (2L) and **Gennean Bolen** (1L) assist attendees with legal paperwork.



CCLS REPRESENTATIVES (L-R): **Marcela Alvarez**, **Paul Mullen** (Law '01), **Charles Palmer** (Law '13), and **Megan Brown** (Law '15)

## Hall of Fame (From page 1)

themes of the responses. Judge Kathleen Meehan was the most outspoken, pointing to her work on the steering committee for “Project First Step,” which helps women overcome domestic violence. “Kudos,” Judge Meehan wrote to Judge Conklin regarding Hood’s contributions. “And you can quote me on that.”

One of Hood’s closest friends in law school, Rayma Church (Law ’91), recalls taking the bar with Hood in San Francisco. They had promised they wouldn’t study in between exam sessions, but found themselves yelling facts across Gump’s store regarding the felony murder rule as they shopped. Church recalls the store fell silent, as other shoppers wondered whether they were studying or planning something. Along with that passion to pass, Church also gave a hint as to how Hood ended up specializing in areas like construction law: she could fly an airplane, had driven a race car, and always wanted to know how things worked, even before law school.

Hood’s acceptance speech showed she hasn’t changed much since those days, as she admitted “part of my passion for being a lawyer is being on fire for my cases.” She says another passion is how she feels about SJCL, believing she would not have been able to go to law school without “its affordability and its nearness.” She also credits the encouragement she received as a single, working mother both from her employers and the Law School, adding “When I graduated, I was 40. But you know what? I was going to be 40 anyway. Was it worth it? Absolutely.”

Ms. Hood began her legal career as a paralegal at Parichan, Renberg, Crossman, & Harvey. Upon her graduation from law school, she was hired as an associate attorney and became a shareholder in the firm six years later. Ms. Hood has been with Baker, Manock & Jensen since 1999. Her focus is on construction law, product liability, business litigation, and personal injury. She recently secured a verdict on appeal to

collect a 2.12-million-dollar judgement for a vehicle accident victim.

Ms. Hood is a tireless advocate in her community. Besides serving as a judge pro tem for the Fresno County Small Claims Court, she has served on the SJCL Board of Trustees for over 10 years. She is a member of the Fresno County Bar Association Board, the Fresno County Women Lawyers, the State Bar of California, American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, Defense Research Institute, Association of Defense Counsel, and Association of Business Trial Lawyers.

Along with Judge Conklin, other members of the bench in attendance included the Hon. Sheila Oberto and the Hon. Gary Austin (Law ’76), who is also a Hall of Fame Member. Other Hall of Fame members in attendance included Kathy Hart (Law ’77), and Rene Sample (Law ’88), who offered closing remarks.

## Constitution Day (From page 5)

who are united and actuated by some common impulse of passion, or of interest, adverse to the rights of other citizens, or to the permanent and aggregate interests of the community.” The statesmen selected through the civic republican process, by their fellow elites, would have no self-interest, being independently wealthy, and would learn to act solely for the common good. By allocating “electoral votes” to each state, even states with small populations would still have influence in the Presidential election, since the states with large populations could not win outright by virtue of the number of ordinary votes they could produce.

I should also note that when the electors voted for President, it appears to have

been assumed that they would exercise independent judgment--no requirement is stated in the Constitution that the electors must vote for any particular candidate. And if no candidate obtained a majority of the elector votes, then the President is selected from among the highest scoring candidates by the House of Representatives.

You can see, Mr. Walker, that this system was to avoid giving the rabble--the white men without property--from using their votes to advance their selfish passions, such as a desire for equal opportunity, fairer economic conditions, and equal treatment under the law--to the detriment of a stable and beneficial status quo. Imagine how important this buffer between the greed-crazed voters and

government would become if women, and people of color should ever somehow obtain the right to vote.

If you doubt the wisdom of the Framers, consider the 2000 presidential election. Without the Electoral College system, our President would have been Al Gore, with 540,000 more total votes than George Bush. With a pusillanimous Democrat in the Presidency on Sept. 11, 2001, instead of a proven Republican war hero, the terrorists would now be wreaking havoc all over the world.

We should be hesitant to change a system that works so well.

# SJCL ON THE MOVE

**Robert Abrams** (Law '08) has opened the Law Office of Robert C. Abrams.

**Juan Raphael Avitia** (Law '09) is the winner of the Fresno Free College Foundation's 2016 Free Speech Award.

**Whitney Barnick** (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney with John F. Hodge.

**Crystal Cabrera** (Law '09) is now a Research Attorney for the Fresno County Superior Court.

**Kristi Costa** (Law '10) is now an Associate Attorney at White Canepa LLP, where she specializes in Medical Malpractice Defense.

**Caren Curtiss** (Law '15) is now an Associate Attorney with Herr Pedersen & Berglund.

**Thornton Davidson** (Law '93) has opened the Law Office of Thornton Davidson, P.C.

**Elizabeth Durbin** (Law '12) is now an El Dorado County Public Defender.

**Skye Emery** (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney at the Casey Aitchison Law Firm.

**Michelle Errecart** (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney at the Law Office of Melanie Aldridge.

**Lucia Gonzales** (Law '13) is now an Associate Attorney at Parker, Kern, Nard & Wenzel.

**Matthew Green** (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney at Gillett Law.

**Paul Hager** (Law '86) is now an Associate Attorney at the Reich Law Firm.

**Julie MacMichael Hamamjian** (Law '14) is now an Associate Attorney at the Law Offices of Michael Sullivan & Associates LLP.

**Lisa Horton** (Law '09) is now an Associate Attorney at Walters & Associates.

**Mandy Kendzora** (Law '15) is now an attorney at Fresno Child Advocates.

**Nichola Krebsbach** (Law '16) becomes an Associate Attorney with Horswill Mederos Soares & Ormonde.

**Seth Mehrten** (Law '13) is now a Transactional/Advisory Attorney for the Fresno City Attorney's Office.

**Amanda Moran** (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney at the Law Office of David Mugridge.

**Alex Newsum** (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney at McCormick Barstow.

**Jennifer Oleksa** (Law '16) is now a Deputy Attorney General.

**Nellie Peloian** (Law '15) is now an Associate Attorney at the Law Office of James Peloian.

**Jennifer L. Walters** (Law '04) has opened Walters & Associates, specializing in Probate, Estate Planning, Family, and Surrogacy Law.

**Craig Waters** (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney for Cuttone & Associates.

New job? Big promotion? Special honor? Send your info to [mcarter@sjcl.edu](mailto:mcarter@sjcl.edu) and be part of the "SJCL on the Move" column!

## In Memoriam

*San Joaquin College of Law notes with sadness the passing of Katherine Ann Coolidge (Law '79) on September 27, 2016. She is survived by her son, Andrew Riggs, and daughter-in-law, Katrina Riggs.*

*San Joaquin College of Law notes with sadness the passing of Rose Ellen Mohan (Law '92) on October 2, 2016. She is survived by her sister Jane Close and husband Larry of Port Charlotte, FL; her brother Mark Mohan and his wife Judy of Clark, PA; along with nieces, nephews, and great-nieces.*

*San Joaquin College of Law notes with sadness the passing of Douglas Harrison (Law '07) on December 2, 2016. He was Chief Attorney at the Department of Child Support Services.*

# Thank you for your support!

August 1, 2016 - November 30, 2016

*San Joaquin College of Law thanks the following individuals and organizations for their gifts. Their generosity helps SJCL deliver an outstanding academic program to students.*

## Gifts of \$25,000+

Larry L. Hillblom Foundation  
Terry Hillblom ('91)

## Gifts of \$2,500 - 4,999

John Loomis  
Carlyn Robbins (Staff)  
Hon. Nancy Cisneros ('80)  
Donna Korotie ('85)

## Gifts of \$1,000 - 2,499

Michael Condry ('80)  
Michael ('93) and Germaine Dias  
Steven Spencer (Board)

## Gifts of \$500 - 999

William Hazen ('86)  
Dowling Aaron Incorporated  
Sierra IP Law, PC  
Dias Law Firm, Inc.  
Baradat & Paboojian, LLP  
Karen Buck ('96)  
Jennifer Morrison ('99)

## Gifts of \$250 - 499

Missy McKai Cartier (Staff)  
Richard Cartier  
Rose Safarian (Faculty)  
Wells Fargo Foundation

Denise Cahill ('04)  
Hon. Georgia York ('78)  
William ('77) and Shirley Armbruster  
Hon. Mark Cullers  
Jackson Grode  
Jason (Faculty) and Karen Hamm  
Hon. K. Diane Lushbough ('88)  
Dennis Marshall ('84)  
John "Wes" Merritt  
Janice Pearson (Dean)  
James Witherow ('87)

## Gifts of \$100 - 249

James and Jeanne Demsey  
Judith Hall ('91)  
Sandra Indech ('99)  
James Sanderson ('80)  
Hon. Houry Sanderson ('87)  
Victoria Denny (Staff)  
Mary Rau ('91)  
Business Journal  
Steven Alfieris ('97)  
Peter Cowper ('88)  
Rhea Ikemiya ('09)  
Joan Lassley  
Hon. Rosemary McGuire ('94)  
Sean McLeod ('00)  
Debra Mosley ('00)  
Hon. Ralph Putnam ('75)

Vernon Reynolds ('10)  
Steven Salazar ('84)  
John Shehadey ('81)  
Nancy Silacci ('80)  
Allen and Nancy ('96) Stegall  
Roger Stewart  
Dr. Vivian Vidoli  
Bob (Board) and Nancy Whalen  
Alicia Wrest (Faculty and '10)  
Thomas Zynda ('93)

## Other

Jared Nelson (Staff)  
Mitchell & Associates Investigations  
Adina Janzen ('85)  
Ian Marty ('99)  
Julia Mitchell  
Diane Skouti (Staff)  
Margaret Smith  
Linda Kelly ('86)  
Hon. David Kalemkarian  
Jeannie Lewis (Staff)  
Lourdes Espinosa ('93)

## In-Kind Gifts

James Mugridge (Faculty and '13)  
Philip E. Tavlian ('80)

You deserve to be properly recognized for your contributions, and we strive for 100 percent accuracy. If we have made an error, please contact Lonsetta Hightower at 559/323-2100 or lhightower@sjcl.edu.

*"Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse."*

– Henry Van Dyke

San Joaquin College of Law appreciates your consideration of a year-end charitable gift. Your gifts allow SJCL to continue to provide new opportunities for students to reveal their knowledge and talents in our community.

Make your gift today at:

[www.sjcl.edu/makeagift](http://www.sjcl.edu/makeagift)



# SAN JOAQUIN COLLEGE OF LAW

901 5th Street  
Clovis, California 93612

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

SAVE THE DATE

# got mcle?

**Saturday, January 7, 2017**

**8:00 – 8:30AM**

Continental Breakfast

**8:30AM – 12:00PM**

MCLE – 4 Hours (including one hour Ethics)  
with choice of six programs

### Cost

SJCL Alumni Association Members - FREE

Current (dues paid)

Non-Alumni Association Members - \$100

### RSVP

Diane Skouti

559/323-2100

[dskouti@sjcl.edu](mailto:dskouti@sjcl.edu)

## O'Neill Book Drive Focuses on Bare Library

"The shelves are pretty bare."

That's the assessment of Virginia Boris Elementary School Librarian Laurel Rosa as she eyes the stacks in Clovis Unified's newest elementary school. Rosa says O'raze Elementary opened just five years ago with 18,000 books. That's more than five times as many books as Boris Elementary currently has for its 600 students. Rosa estimates she could easily use about 10,000 more books.

This year, all books from the Elizabeth O'Neill Book Drive will go to Boris Elementary. This is the ninth year for the Drive, which helps shore up the libraries for Clovis Unified Title I schools. Over the years, the Drive has collected nearly 3,000 books for the cause. Please drop off any gently used children's books at San Joaquin College of Law any time before the end of February and help fire a love of reading for local kids!

