



(L-R) Pastor **Jimmy**, **Manpreet Singh**, Pastor **Chris**, **Iqbal Bains** (3L), **Varinder Malhi**, and **Happy Singh** at the distribution center in Rosenberg, Texas. Pastor Jimmy of Austin and Pastor Chris of Houston both came to Rosenberg to assist at the distribution center.

Student's Initiative Leads to Semi-Trucks Filled with Help for Houston

Like most of us, student Iqbal Bains, watched in dismay as the scenes of ruin and otherworldly devastation in Texas, unfolded on the TV screen at the gym. He had seen similar reports on the massive flooding of Sri Lanka, but the situation in Texas seemed even worse. It was the stories coming out of the smaller towns, like Beaumont, Rosenberg, and Rockport that struck a chord. "The people in the smaller towns needed a lifeline," he said. "I felt it was my duty, as a fellow American, and as a human being, to heed that call and do what I could."

Iqbal called his friends and said simply, "I'm going to Houston, do you want to come?" He wasn't surprised at their reply:

"When do we leave?" What began as a quest to fill Iqbal's Ram 1500 truck, and a 6x12 foot trailer hitched to the back, became a whole lot more than he could have imagined.

"My friends Varinder, Manpreet and I agreed we would not go with anything less than a full trailer - that we would fill it on our own if we had to." But they didn't have to. Through word of mouth and a video posted on Instagram about their mission, the folks of Fresno donated by the truck load. "Not one person came with only one or two goods," Iqbal marveled. "They came with vehicles filled with supplies. That's the thing with Fresnans, they have big hearts and are willing to help their fellow man/woman."

As Iqbal's odyssey unfolded, it quickly swelled into three semi-trucks from Fresno, and a coordinated effort with others in Sacramento for another three, filled with supplies. The operation and arrangements seemed to live and breathe on their own: a logistics manager's dream. He says the key to the lightening quick feat was a truck driver named Ishmeet Dhillon, the owner of Anyway Logistics of Fresno. Answering the request for transportation of the growing pile of goods, Ishmeet provided his semi-truck, along with his driving crew at no charge, to deliver that first load. He wouldn't even take payment for the gas.

With the first truck of goods underway, Iqbal and his friends piled into his wife's



Professor **Justin Atkinson** (L) and the panel at the inauguration of “Law Week,” presented by the college of law at the University of Xochicalco, Mexico.

SJCL to Host Trainings for Mexican Law Professors, Students, and Judges

The Mexican government is making significant changes to its judicial process related to criminal matters. Historically, criminal matters were processed via the submission of written evidence reviewed behind closed doors. To combat the lack of transparency and to establish what many view as a more modern and fair system, Mexico has established a new accusatory penal system, employing the use of oral trials. To help smooth the transition, the Mexican legal community is looking for help from the legal community in the United States, a community very experienced with the process and procedure of an accusatory system.

Through the Consulate of Mexico and its connection with SJCL, various Mexican Universities inquired about SJCL's availability to accept and train Mexican law students. As a result of that contact, Professor Atkinson was invited to present at an academic conference hosted by the University of Xochicalco in Baja California, Mexico.

The presentation included a discussion about the similarities between the reformed Mexican system and the US system, and led to more dialog about the possibility of SJCL hosting trainings not only for Mexican law students, but also for law professors and judges. Professor Atkinson returned a few weeks later to sign a friendly memorandum of understanding with the University of Xochicalco.

The memorandum expresses the desire of both institutions to collaborate on training opportunities, exchange programs, or anything else that will further educational opportunities for US and Mexican students and legal communities. SJCL will host the first group of law professors and students this December.



Professor Atkinson was invited to present at an academic conference hosted by the University of Xochicalco in Baja California, Mexico

Inter Alia

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Vision: *To be the premier provider of legal education, scholarship, and service in the San Joaquin Valley.*
Mission: *To educate and develop individuals to become highly skilled attorneys and problem solvers who will benefit their communities through public and private service. In seeking this vision and attaining this mission, SJCL shall embody the values of civility, excellence, integrity, intellectual inquiry, and service.*

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Nick Aniotzbehere (Law '08), **Ty Kharazi** (Law '96), and **Ramon Nava** (Law '14) at Ty's firm Yarra, Kharazi & Clason.

Kharazi Creates Book Scholarship

Ty Kharazi (Law '96) and his wife, Sandy, want to create openings and opportunities for those who have no family backing or resources. He knows from experience how hard it can be to face such challenges.

Ty's American story began in 1977 when he was a 16-year-old college student studying in the Los Angeles area on a scholarship from his home country of Iran. Six months after he arrived, so did the embassy takeover in Tehran. Ty found himself without finances and family. He managed to land a job at Jack in the Box where he worked all day and a job as a valet along the Sunset Strip at night. He eventually switched to working at McDonalds and tried to take at least one college course at night every semester. Ten years later, he achieved his Bachelor's degree in Biology from CSU Bakersfield, followed by his Masters in Health Care Administration.

He began working for the Air Pollution Control District which moved him to Fresno, where he felt a growing interest in law as he wrote rules related to dust

control. He enrolled at SJCL, taking classes at night while working a 40 hour week to support his family.

Years ago, he established the Kharazi Bar Study Support Scholarship to offset the cost of a bar review course. He recalls paying for the cost of such a course was outside of the very tight budget which he lived by during law school. They had to sell his wife's car, a 1979 Volvo she used for driving to work.

The second place he feels "he got stuck" while attending law school was the price of books, which were also way above budget. He recalls buying a used textbook from an upperclassman by making three installment payments to him. So now, he and his wife have established the Kharazi Book Scholarship of \$500 to an incoming SJCL student who best demonstrates need and potential for success, along with being the first in his or her immediate family to attend graduate school.

Ty doesn't subscribe to the belief "that government should do everything," adding "The family should step up." But he

remembers what it was like to be without family backing, including both finances and role models. He wants to remove some of the barriers for others, but is quick to add, those given such opportunities need to step up as well. "If they fail, it's on them."

After passing the bar, Ty recalls he never wanted to work for anyone else again, so he "hung out his shingle." Twenty years later, he manages 40 people at his firm, Yarra, Kharazi & Clawson, including three other SJCL alumni. They include attorneys Nick Aniotzbehere (Law '08) and Ramon Nava (Law '14), along with recent grad Matt Lear (Law '17), who is clerking while he awaits the results of the July bar. Matt says he had been told if he passes, he's hired.

Reflecting on his success, Ty says "Nowhere but America could this happen. If you work hard, you can get what you deserve."

For more information about the Kharazi Book Scholarship, visit www.sjcl.edu.

\$9,000 Hugh Goodwin Bar Scholarship

Lanae Oviedo has won the 2017 Hugh Goodwin Bar Scholarship to San Joaquin College of Law. She has already had more than a taste of law and public service.

Her mother, Serita Rios, is a criminal defense attorney and 2006 graduate of SJCL. She gave birth to Lanae when she was just 15-years-old. Lanae remembers how hard her mom worked, going to a job all day and law school by night. Lanae often spent the school year living with her grandmother due to her mom's long hours, but she would be home with her mom over the summer. That includes the summer Serita was studying for the bar. Lanae was an 11-year-old at the time, and recalls making food for her mom so she could study all day. She says she still has no idea how her mom did it. While Lanae hopes to become a role model, she says she knows her mom already is.

Lanae spent the past two years serving as a law clerk for her mother's office. Her grandfather, a Boalt Hall graduate and Orange County attorney, drove up to the Valley to take Lanae to her first day of classes at SJCL.

Last year, following her graduation from Fresno State with a B.S. in Criminology, Lanae established the Tribal Expungement Assistance Program for members of her tribe, the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians. She gathers information from tribal members eligible for expungement, consults with volunteer attorneys, and prepares the documents and filing motions.

While she never lived on the reservation, she recalls visiting and seeing poverty, alcoholism, children without shoes, and so on. She says it is like they are "in this hole and live this private life that no one knows about." Her goal is both to serve as



a role model and help people "who don't have influence."

The Hugh Goodwin Bar Association is named after the Honorable Hugh W. Goodwin, the first African American to hold the position of Judge in Fresno County. The scholarship's criteria include the applicant's record of community service.

\$5,000 Hmong Language Scholarship

San Joaquin College of Law is proud to announce the first winner of the Hmong Language Scholarship. Pazong Vang, a 2015 Fresno State graduate with a BA in Political Science, meets not only the language criteria of the \$5,000 tuition-reduction scholarship, but also the benchmarks of Community Service and Leadership.

Under Fresno State's Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning, Pazong served as a Volunteer Coordinator, Corps Member, and Team Leader for the Jumpstart Program. She was also the Community Activities Director for the Hmong Student Association.

Following her graduation from Fresno State, she earned her Judicial Administration Certificate from C.S.U. Sacramento while serving as a Judicial Assistant for the Fresno Superior Court and later as a Judicial Administrative Fellow for the San Diego Superior Court.

Despite the lure of San Diego beaches, Pazong returned to the Valley this summer. She explains she "gained a lot of experience in San Diego, but I really love Fresno. I love the culture, and this will allow me to grow along with the community."

Her parents spent time in a Thai refugee camp before heading to France and later to the U.S. to join her paternal grandparents in Fresno, where Pazong was born. "They valued education as a tool in obtaining the American Dream," she says, adding "I value our culture, but also, making a difference in the world."

She hopes her law degree, coupled with her experience in the courts, will put her in a position to implement new programs, making justice more accessible and efficient. She gives the example of Hmong funerals, which are highly engrained in the culture, but also highly expensive. Often, conflicts are created by that cash flow, which she feels could be stemmed by



simple contracts. Pazong feels "Knowing the law is key to making social changes."

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 Hmong Language Scholarship seeks to aid prospective attorneys who are proficient in the Hmong language so that community may be better served.

SJCL Visits Weakley Arendt, LLP

When one steps inside the offices of Weakley Arendt, an atmosphere of comfort and congeniality is palpable.

We popped in recently to see our grads in action, and found the nearly all-SJCL law firm (there is one attorney who attended law school elsewhere, but we don't hold that against them!) to be as happy in their work, as they are talented.

As they spoke, it was apparent the group of alumni gathered around the conference table were not bound by their class years. They had no trouble sharing the anecdotes and laughter that made their law school experiences special. Even with the span of 31 years between the first and most recent grads, there was no shortage of reminiscence or comradery.

James Weakley (Law '78) and past SJCL Hall of Fame Inductee, began his career as a law clerk in the late 1970's for fellow alumnus John Newman (Law '74), and Pete Eldridge. Another member of SJCL's first ever graduating class, Peggy Setsuyo Liggett (Law '74) practiced there as well. Later, upon co-founding his own law firm, James continued the tradition of opening his door to fellow SJCLians, including another Hall of Fame Inductee, Judge Rosemary McGuire, who began her legal career at the firm as a paralegal.

"SJCL is where our connections are," James noted. "We brought in many of those clerks we know today as attorneys and judges." James says it is not a conscious effort, however, to hire from their alma mater, it just happens that they are the best qualified applicants for the job. It's partly due, the group agreed, to the practical education acquired at SJCL. "It helps prepare lawyers for litigation, and the more practical aspect of the law," said James.

The group agreed the fact that many of the professors at SJCL are practicing attorneys and judges with practical experience is a big factor in the quality of instruction.

Leslie Dillahunty (Law '97) spent 14 years as a paralegal for Attorney Mick Marderosian before enrolling in law school. "I remember going into (Judge) Alan Simpson's office and saying that my brain



(L-R) **Michelle Sassano** (Law '04), **James Arendt** (Law '89), **James Weakley** (Law'78), **Brande Gustafson** (Law '09), and **Leslie Dillahunty** (Law '97)

hurt!" She recalls having her evidence class with Judge Ardaiz during the O.J. Simpson trial, and that the whole class took advantage of the headlines to get him off topic as often as possible. She said that she and James (Weakley) had the opportunity to work with Judge Ardaiz on an appellate brief, and that it was really fascinating for her, working with him now as a fellow colleague, after having been a student in his class. "He would say to me on the phone, it's Jim, not Judge!"

Leslie noted that the local legal network between judges, attorneys, and the law school is very strong, and it's a big advantage once one is working in the field.

After attaining his B.A. in Political Science from UCLA, James Arendt (Law '89) worked the graveyard shift as a deputy sheriff during law school. "I was a terrible student," he said, "It was a long haul!" In addition to his practice representing public entities like school districts, cities and counties, as well as private business interests, he also teaches at the police academy at Fresno City College.

Michelle Sassano (Law '04) had two young children when she started law school: a 3-year and 3-month old, but says her terrific study partners and professors helped her make it through. "(Our) professors were all very approachable,"

Michelle said. "I loved law school, I loved the learning."

When asked about his favorite class, James Weakley replied, "They were all terrifying!" But he, too, had praise for the instructors, and the teaching that was based on practical knowledge. He noted that during a trial once, a lawyer who was also an instructor from a more famous law school came in and was "just awful" at trial.

"Judge Ardaiz told us that he expected us to be prepared for his class, just as he would expect us to be prepared for his courtroom," Leslie added. That's the way you become a good attorney.

On the subject of staying local after SJCL, Brande Gustafson (Law '09) noted how Fresno provides a rare opportunity to work in nearly every level and type of court there is. "Here we have the Federal Court, the 5th District Court of Appeal, the State Court, and more. There are so many courts in this area, any and every legal job is possible here," Brande said.

While perusing the "Our Attorneys" section on the law firm's website, the level of accomplishment and community engagement of our alumni becomes clear. From ratings of Super Lawyer and Rising Star, to lists of service in professional organizations and affiliations that go on and on, we can't say enough about the pride we feel for our grads.

William Parry (Law '98) Fills SJCL with Pride and Laughter

Bill Parry's resume reflects not only an astounding depth of experience, but also, community service.

Bill has served on the board of directors for the Kings County Fair since 2003, served since 2005 on the board of the Lemoore High School Foundation for Educational Excellence, served four consecutive terms as president of Kings County Bar Association, and is also a board member of 'AmeriCymru,' the Nation's largest Welsh-American association. He is the current president of the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. In 2011, Fresno State named him as one of the "100 Most Distinguished Alumni" from the Arts and Humanities Dept. in the school's 100 year history. Bill also sits on the Board of Directors for Fresno State's Advisory Board.

His law experience includes working from 1998-2001 as an Administrative Hearing Officer for the City of Visalia and Visalia Police Department. He also worked from 1999 to 2001 as a criminal defense litigator with the Kapetan Brothers Law Firm. From 2001-2013 Bill was a litigator for Kahn, Soares & Conway. From 2013 to 2017, he was the managing shareholder of the Hanford office of Hammerschmidt Broughton. This year, he opened the William Parry Law Office, where he specializes in criminal defense.

But for Bill's classmates, his legacy also includes a lot of laughter.

There was the time when the school had just moved into the renovated Clovis High School building and the Board of Trustees was slated to tour the new facility. Bill and a classmate took some time the evening before the tour to rearrange the name plates on the doors, including moving the "Men's Room" sign to the door of Director of Student Services Joyce Morodomi.

Another time, he was pulled from class to face an angry Dean and representative from the Clovis Veterans Memorial District, demanding to know if he was the one who raised the Welsh flag that morning on the flagpole. In telling that story, Bill is very



careful to mention no flag had flown on that pole for months, and he did not take down Old Glory. But he adds that when Dean Jan Pearson asked why he would do such an outlandish thing, he told her "It's Tom Jones' birthday."

Bill, who was affectionately known as "Fatty" during his time at SJCL, also tells the tale of tossing a Nerf football on the lawn with classmates to relieve finals tension. They accidentally tossed it on the Law School roof. Maintenance super-hero Rick Rodriguez got it down for them.

Twice. The third time, as he had warned, it stayed there. Years later, Professor Larry Artenian saw a beat up ball on the ground with "Fatty" written in Sharpie. He put it on the shelf of his office. Several years after that, a law student interning in the same office as Bill saw it.

"You have Bill's ball?"

"You know Fatty?"

Artenian handed over the sorry-looking prize, which now sits on a shelf in Bill's office, unless he's posing for a picture with it.

Alumni Association in the Spotlight

BY SCOTT DARLING, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

The Alumni Association has had a busy and productive year to this point. We recently completed our second annual Alumni Appreciation Night with the Grizzlies, which was an enjoyable event for all. This year we improved the event by moving it to the Grizzlies Den, which allowed for more seating and the use of a suite. The improvements were clearly appreciated as we had nearly double the attendance from the first year. Hopefully we can continue to improve and grow this event in years to come as I think it is a wonderful way for alumni to bring their families and reconnect with each while enjoying a ballgame.

But the year is not over yet. We still have many more events upcoming, like Senior Citizens Law Day, the Marjaree Mason Children's Party, and Got MCLE?.

On other fronts, the Alumni Association continues to grow and improve. We have taken steps to increase our footprint on social media with an active Facebook page for the association, where we post about the many events that we conduct

throughout the year. I encourage all of you who are on Facebook to give the page a like so that you'll stay aware of the events as they come up. Additionally, we have created an easier method to join/renew your annual membership through Member Planet. Details about this can also be found on our Facebook page. To that extent, I want to remind all graduates that participation in the Alumni Association helps continue SJCL's commitment to excellence in legal education, service to our community, and assists in building valuable networking connections. This says nothing of the great benefits that you receive from your membership, including the annual MCLE event, which will be coming up in January. This event alone is worth the price of membership. I encourage you all to join/renew your membership now, so that you don't miss out.

Lastly, it's important to note that members are always welcome to provide the board with any ideas or opinions on how the Association can better serve the school, its students, and its alumni as we are always looking for ways to grow and expand upon



our vision. Our meetings are typically held the third Wednesday of each month, at 6 p.m., at the law school. As President, it's been my pleasure to serve the Association and I'm always available for questions, comments or concerns.

Popcorn and Cold Brew Coffee Day!



New and returning students found the hallways of SJCL once again perfumed with the aroma of fresh popcorn as they made their way to classes on August 14. Over a hundred bags of popcorn disappeared throughout the day and into the evening, as stealth law students (who are rarely ever actually seen taking the popcorn) obviously enjoyed the "welcome back" snack!



Night at the Grizzlies

With parking lot pavement and ball park sidewalks hot enough to melt your flip flops, the August heat was relentless (again) for the 2nd Annual SJCL Night at the Grizzlies. It was less scorching, however, with this year's inclusion of an air-conditioned luxury suite, and access to the second floor 940 ESPN Club for adult beverages, and a cool place to sit and watch the game.

Some 76 SJCL alumni, students, staff, and faculty added to the nearly 13,000 die-hard baseball fans who attended, the 2nd largest crowd this season. While the Grizzlies ended up on the bottom of a 7-3 loss, it wasn't for a lack of effort by SJCL Alumni Association President Scott Darling, who threw out the first pitch.

Scott, a dedicated Chicago Cubs fan, says throwing the first pitch was a great experience that he has always desired to have. "Hopefully someday I'll get an opportunity to do it again...so I can make a much better throw!"

For many, the Grizzly event provided a chance to catch up with fellow alumni while snacking on ballpark food in the comfort of a chilly indoor suite, perched high above the field. With a window view of the entire ballpark, and a big screen TV to watch each play close-up, those who actually came for the baseball were happy, too. The fact that the Grizzlies lost didn't dampen the fun much at all, especially with a fabulous fireworks show and live concert right after the game. Thank you to all who attended our special event.



Welcome Incoming Class!



Students, alumni, and faculty were on hand to welcome students to the Dean's Reception in July. Speakers at the event included (L-R) **Whitney Hendricks** (3L), **Jesse Molina** (Law '13), Dean **Jan Pearson**, **Martha Figueroa** (4L) and **Dustin Gallegos** (2L).

The newest admittees to San Joaquin College of Law spent an evening mixing, mingling, and hearing inspirational talks at the Dean's Reception in late July, but were soon ready to get down to the business of back to school.

Seventy-two nervous but smiling faces graced the seats at the 2017 Orientation at SJCL on August 7th. They heard about opportunities and help available from student groups like Delta Theta Phi (see photo below), LawSUIT, the Student Bar Association, Law Students for Community Advancement, the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review, and Law Students for Christian Fellowship. And then they heard from each other for about an hour.

Who are these new members of the SJCL Family? For openers, they carry impressive academic credentials from more than 20 colleges and universities. Exactly half of them have bachelor's degrees from a CSU campus, including Fresno State, San

Diego State, and Humboldt State. More than 20 percent have a degree from one of six U.C. campuses, including U.C. Berkeley, U.C. Davis, UCLA, U.C. Merced, U.C. Santa Cruz, and U.C. Irvine. Some of the other students come from greater distances, bearing degrees from places like the University of Hawaii, Hilo, the University of Washington, Fort Hays State University in Kansas, and even India. Their degrees range from Political Science and Criminal Justice to Psychology, Accounting, Genetics, Business Administration, Agriculture, and more.

More than a third are either currently serving as clerks and paralegals or have recently resigned those positions to make more time for law school. They include two students who currently work for a parent who happens to be an SJCL alum. At least three have been clerking for other SJCL Alumni. Two others worked as judicial assistants either in Fresno County

Superior Court or San Diego County Superior Court.

Others have had more diverse experiences. Some work at restaurants or in bars, one splits her time between modelling and working in a daycare center, one is a case manager for Reading and Beyond, one works at the GAP, one is a realtor, another is a property tax appraiser, and two are adjunct faculty members at Valley colleges. A few are stay-at-home moms, one is an immigration advocate for Centro Law Familia, there's a substitute teacher, a guitar teacher, a marketing manager, and one who runs his own I.T. company. There's an arborist for PG&E and also a woman who works on I.T. for PG&E. She says she is also co-owner of a nursery.

Dean Jan Pearson asked "Which one?" "Gazebo Gardens," was the reply.

The room burst into applause. Welcome. Welcome from everyone; welcome to everyone.





Welcome Back!

The Student Bar Association treated students, staff and faculty to the Taste of Greece Back to School party on August 18th. It was a full evening of meeting, mingling, laughing, and Opa!



SBA – Welcome to the new year

JOSEPH GOOD, STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

The San Joaquin College of Law, Student Bar Association (SBA), had the pleasure of throwing our back to school night event. It was a successful event celebrating the new school year with great food and even better company. Thank you to everyone who came out and participated and to those who helped the event run smoothly.

I would like to congratulate the new SJCL SBA Student Representatives. I am excited to serve with you and make this the best year ever.

The SBA is pleased to announce the venue, date, and theme for the banquet and awards ceremony. The event will take place on Friday, March 16, 2018. It will be held at The Loft Events, which is located in Downtown/Tower District. The theme this year will be: The Barrister's Ball 2018.

According to Wikipedia "The Barrister's Ball is an annual event held at most law schools in common law countries such as

the United States, Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom. It is generally a formal/semi-formal affair, often near the end of the academic year, conducted by the institution's Student Bar Association as a school-wide gathering."

There will be more details regarding the event closer to the date; however, we would urge you to save the date.

In addition to the school events, SBA plans on doing at least two fundraising events per semester and partnering with other student organizations to fulfill our philanthropic callings.

The SBA members want to be as transparent as possible and plan to hold open meetings for all students, where we



SBA Officers (L-R) **Joseph Good** (3L), **Roxanna Alchian** (4L), **Jared Bertoni** (2L), and **Yvette Case** (4L)

will discuss our plans and will be open to feedback from the student body.

Please feel free to contact any of the members of the SBA if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you for giving us the chance to serve you.

LSCF – Defending Religious Liberties

BY EMILIO AVELLANEDA



LSCF Student Leaders (L-R) **Dustin Gallegos** (2L), **Rena Harrison** (3L), and **Emilio Avellaneda** (3L)

Law Student Christian Fellowship offers a unique opportunity for law students to get involved with a new student group at San Joaquin College of Law. This student organization's mission is to join the nationally recognized Christian Legal Society (CLS) by cultivating and developing a group on SJCL campus. As law students, we hope to make a difference in our communities when we become attorneys, by growing a local CLS that defends religious liberties and provides legal assistance to the poor.

We would like to invite as many law students as possible to get involved. This student organization serves as a way to embody love for Christ by bringing together law students in fellowship and supplying them with support throughout law school.

It started as a weekly bible study group that met at Kuppa Joy Coffee House in Clovis last year. Since then, this group has

become a student organization which is now moving forward to establish a CLS law student ministry chapter at SJCL by next year or sooner.

This student group welcomes all community members to take part in a movement which seeks to combine our faith and love for the law. We would like to extend this invitation to people from all walks of life, including those who hold varied beliefs, as religious liberties should apply to rights for individuals to choose any faith, or having no faith.

We plan to have SJCL students represent the law school at the CLS National Conference in Newport Beach on October 26-29, 2017.

Please contact Emilio Avellaneda at emilio.avellaneda@student.sjcl.edu, Rena Harrison at rena.harrison@student.sjcl.edu, or Dustin Gallegos at dustin.gallegos@student.sjcl.edu, if you have an interest in joining us, or simply want more information.

LawSUIT – Aiming to Assist

BY RENA HARRISON, LAWSUIT PRESIDENT

Law Students United In Tolerance (LawSUIT), was initially founded to connect minority students with the communities in which we serve, or will eventually serve, as attorneys. We also strive to assist with the academic success of LawSUIT members, particularly during their first year of law school. Having been around for nearly a decade, LawSUIT's membership has continued to expand. This academic year, LawSUIT has some exciting new things to offer our members!

We are growing and expanding as an organization to include academic support which was traditionally focused on 1L students, to encompass classes taken during the second year of law school, and/or those courses taken by students who have elected to enter the 3-year program. We also continue to offer a mentorship program connecting members with some

of the most successful upper division students.

Our passion to serve the community has not changed, but we are seeking ways in which our impact will be greater than in prior years including mentoring youth, helping with animal rescues, participating in various fundraising events, and outreach to other academic institutions from elementary to university levels. We are extremely excited for what the future of LawSUIT holds, and are happy to provide students with such opportunities

In addition, we aim to connect students with one another, and foster friendships. Sometimes it can be hard to find time for social pursuits while making certain you are prepared for class, family, and work. LawSUIT has been invited to participate in



LawSUIT Officers (L-R) **Rena Harrison** (3L), **Joseph Good** (3L), and **Jesus Pereda, Jr.** (2L)

and possibly co-host some family friendly and fun social events with other student organizations and the outside community! We look forward to an exciting academic year!

LSCA – A Spirit of Community Service

BY DARCY BROWN, LSCA COMMUNITY LIAISON

Law Students for Community Advancement (LSCA) is kicking off the new school year with opportunities to make a positive difference on campus and in the local community. Here are just a few of the events that are planned.

Potluck & Daring Discussions Tool Kit (TBA) – We will gather around food to discuss the best strategies for navigating confrontation, defusing defensiveness and finding common ground in shared values. This effort is in line with a national movement to build a more peaceful society. Please bring a small dish to share.

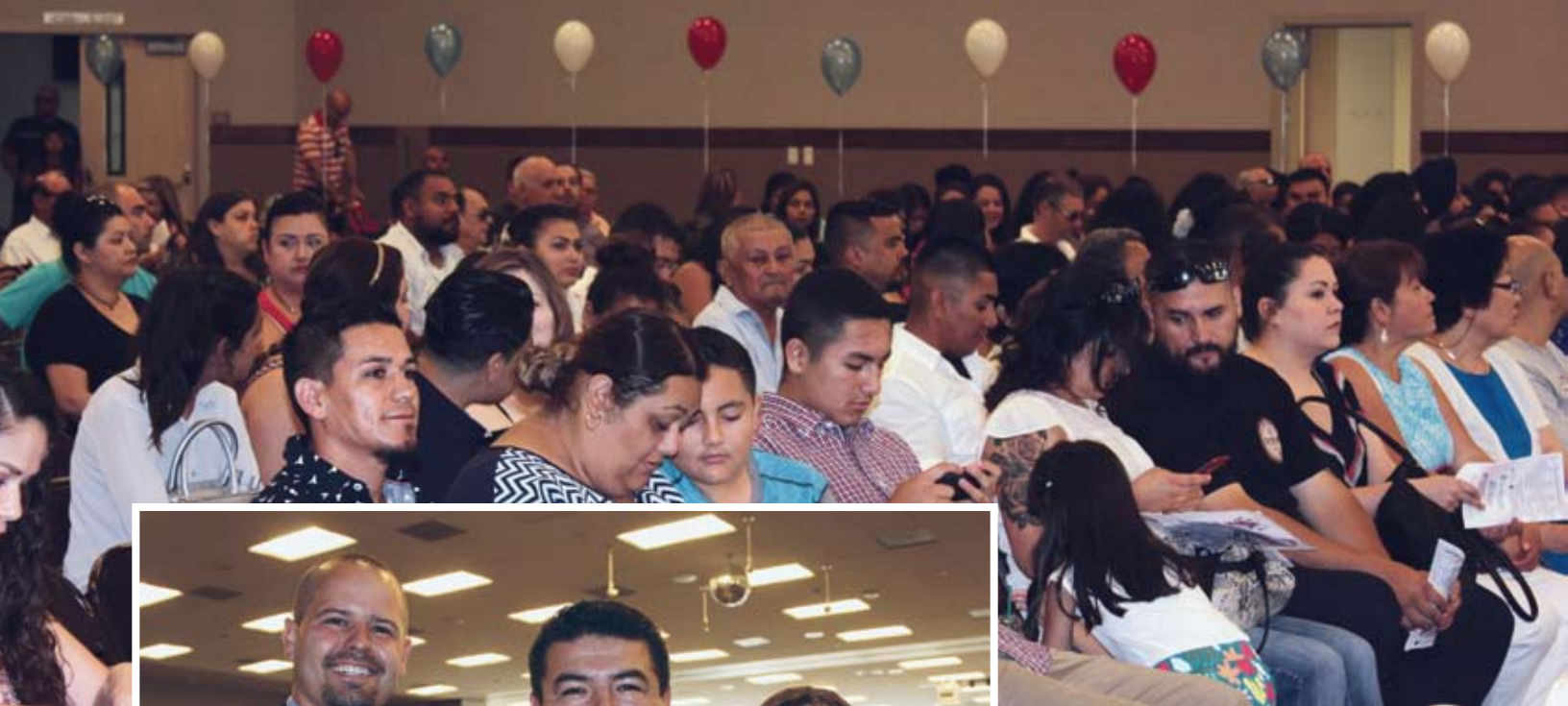
Worlds: LSCA Film Series Part 1 (9/22) – The first in a series of film/speaker events geared toward encouraging community members to learn about and discuss specific current issues affecting the San Joaquin Valley. Part 1 of the series will explore the Syrian refugee crisis which has directly impacted the Fresno community.

The event will include a short presentation on the “Making of the Modern Middle East,” by Professor of International Security Law, Andreas Borgeas, followed by a screening of Julia Meltzer’s film, “Dalya’s Other Country.” The film tells the nuanced story of members of a family displaced by the Syrian conflict who are remaking themselves after their parents separate. Effervescent teen Dalya goes to Catholic high school and her mother, Rudayna, enrolls in college as they both walk the line between their Muslim values and the new world in which they find themselves. There will be a short discussion led by representatives of Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM) after the film. This event is a collaboration with POV, the award-winning independent non-fiction film series on PBS. www.pbs.org/pov. This event is free and open to all students and local community members.

Senior Citizens’ Law Day (10/14)– LSCA will provide assistance for various Central California Legal Services/Voluntary Legal Services Program events throughout the year. The first event is an annual event to serve senior citizens which is hosted by the SJCL Alumni Association and CCLS. Students will provide support for the event and may assist community members, under the supervision of attorneys.

Tree Planting (11/4) – LSCA members will plant trees along the Kings River in collaboration with PG&E. This effort will enhance wildlife habitat. Volunteers will have an opportunity to learn about habitat conservation law. Lunch will be provided at no cost.

If you would like more information, or have an interest in joining or partnering with LSCA on your own project, please contact LSCA@sjcl.edu.



Professor **Gregory Olson**, **Lorenzo Rios**, Chief Executive Officer of the Clovis Veterans Memorial District, and **Maria Jeans**, Program Director at the Maddy Institute at Fresno State.

San Joaquin College of Law's New American Legal Clinic is proud to be part of the World Refugee Day Citizenship swearing-in ceremony for over 200 new citizens at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District. NALC assisted nearly two dozen of the individuals taking their oaths. World Refugee Day is observed each June 20th to "honor the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict and violence."

60th National Biennial DTP Convention



Congratulations to Delta Theta Phi (DTP) Dean Amanda Busick and Vice Dean Cesar Vargas, who represented the Hollis G. Best Senate of DTP and San Joaquin College of Law at the 60th National Biennial DTP Convention on August 5th in New Orleans. Amanda took 3rd place in the Thomas Oral Advocacy Competition, resulting in a check to SJCL for DTP scholarships. She competed against the deans of more than 40 other law schools, including nine from California.

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 *SJALR*, 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. The previous 26 Volumes are available on line at sjcl.edu/sjalr.

Professional articles are always welcome. Contact Volume 27 *SJALR* Executive Editor Jennifer Nguyen-Bui at Jennifer.Nguyen-Bui@student.sjcl.edu for more information.



This Comment, along with the entire 27th Volume and the previous 26 Volumes are available at www.sjcl.edu/sjalr.

Professional articles are always welcome.

Contact Jennifer Nguyen-Bui at jennifer.nguyen-bui@student.sjcl.edu for more information.

Death by a Thousand Cuts: Regulatory Takings Under the Endangered Species Act

BY ANNEMARIE MONIQUE TAYLOR, COMMUNITY LIAISON EDITOR, SAN JOAQUIN AGRICULTURAL LAW REVIEW

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is considered one of the most powerful and controversial legislations in the United States. In 2016, it was expanded to include the listing of an additional 1100 species, and changes were made to key definitions. The changes signify an exponential expansion in both the reach and power of the ESA over privately owned lands. Policy changes and reform of the ESA are necessary to restore the balance between the protection of endangered plants/animals and the ability of small landowners and agricultural businesses to utilize their lands for profit.

In an effort to increase voluntary compliance with the Endangered Species Act the Department of the Interior, in conjunction with the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife, have implemented a number of voluntary programs in which a landowner can enroll his/her land. Although the programs vary, most require advance planning for the use of the land and provisions for funding for the plans implementation. In return the landowner obtains an incidental take permit (ITP) giving them the right to "takes" of identified protected species on the property which would otherwise constitute a violation of the ESA. Gaining an ITP can be very involved, is difficult for small agricultural enterprises to afford financially, and may include restrictions in the use of the lands

in question. If the landowner chooses not to stay enrolled in the program(s), legal action can be taken against them for any ESA violations that take place after disenrollment including the continued incidental takes that were previously approved. Violations of the ESA can subject the landowner to fines and a possible jail sentence.

This comment focuses on how the landowner's limited use of their lands and inability to protect their livestock under the Endangered Species Act constitutes a regulatory taking for which compensation is due. However, due to the limited number of successful regulatory takings cases, very few challenges to these takings are filed in courts. The difficulty that potential challengers would face is demonstrated in the Legal Analysis of this Comment, examining the Penn Central Balancing Framework, initially established in *Penn Central Transportation Company v. New York*, 438 U.S. 104 (1978), and applying it to two ESA cases: *Christie v. Hodel*, USCA 9Cir. F2d 1324 (1988), and *Tulare Lakes Water Basin Storage District v. U.S.* 49 Fed. Claims 313, 2001. *Christie v. Hodel* demonstrates the difficulties faced by rancher's predation of stock by ESA protected species whose populations have surpassed the recovery point and are still protected. *Tulare Lakes Water Basin Storage* differs in that it demonstrates conflicting interests and questions priorities between

contractual obligations of delivering water contracts versus avoiding detrimental effects to salmon. The analysis demonstrates the complexities of the vying interests and the difficulties faced in winning a regulatory takings claim.

The Comment concludes by recommending needed policy changes to the ESA, including limitations on citizen's suits to reduce excess litigation, and the redirection of tax payer's dollars used to fund the litigation and operate the massive bureaucracy the ESA encompasses. The funds should be redirected towards educational programs for farmers and ranchers demonstrating best practices that both increase wildlife and agricultural production. Educational programs have been used successfully to protect birds nesting in hay fields and in modification of cattle grazing to increase natural plant populations. The money should also be used to fund compensatory programs such as one operated by The Wolf Compensation Trust. The Trust pays ranchers for losses in their herd by listed predators which allows for a peaceful coexistence between the species in question while avoiding the rancher being forced to operate at a loss. Opposing sides working together will lead to successful implementing of the ESA while achieving the goals of all parties and avoiding endless litigation.

Staff Happenings



Dedicated SJCL professors are looking for creative and impactful ways to illustrate different law cases to first-year students. Check out this scene from Professor Goodrich's Torts class where SJCL Alumni Liaison **Diane Skouti** and her granddaughter, **Julia**, reenacted the lawn chair scene from the *Garratt v. Dailey* case to illustrate the aspects of intent. Afterwards, Julia and Diane received flowers from Professor Goodrich, for their command performance!



SJCL staff let a little sun vs moon action eclipse the work day on August 21st as they checked out the Great American Eclipse! (L-R) **Lisa Nilmeier**, **Rick Rodriguez**, and **Victoria Denny**.



Admissions Counselor **Francisco Rosas** and NALC Legal Director Professor **Greg Olson** point to the power of pink on National Pink Day in June.



New Bar Admittees (L-R) **Ryan Kalashian, Sean Fredin, Daniel Martin, Leila Alamri-Kassim, and Chris Matthes.**
Other SJCL grads also sworn in but not pictured: **Erik Hawkins and Kim Nakagawa.**

June Bar Admissions

In law, the real estate values of “location, location, location” could easier be replaced with “reputation, reputation, reputation.” That’s the message the ten new admittees to the bar heard numerous ways at the Bar Admissions Ceremony on June 7th at the Sisk Courthouse. Seven of them are SJCL Alumni. Superior Court Presiding Judge Kimberly Gaab told the audience she knows that lawyers talk about the judges, but judges also talk about lawyers, shaping a reputation which precedes courtroom appearances.

State Bar Trustee Mark Broughton said the primary purpose of the State Bar is “protection of the people,” adding “Reputation is the currency of the realm.”

FCBA President Adam Stirrup (Law ’08) added “Your reputation is earned by your actions and how you treat others.”

Other speakers also stressed the importance of balance, with Justice Charles Poochigian relating a story of his encounter with a well-established attorney in his earlier years of practice. Poochigian tried to strike up a conversation about an event of the day, but was shut down when the older attorney told him “I only do law.”

Magistrate Judge Stanley Boone advised the new attorneys to “be a part of the community” and “strive together to do better,” but also added “and have a life.”

Committee of Bar Examiners Representative David Torres noted the group before him was the last group to take the three-day bar, while Acting Presiding Justice Herbert Levy told them one always had to be sharp to pass the bar, but this group had to “be really, really sharp.” Levy also deviated from the program to note the imminent retirement of Justice Stephen Kane, whom he has known for about 40 years. How did they meet? They were both members of the Young Lawyers Association.

Fresno County Young Lawyers teamed up with Fresno County Women Lawyers to provide refreshments.

Thank you for your support!

March 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017

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.

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Houston

FROM PAGE 1

Prius and hit the road bound for Texas. Without taking the time to think through pesky details, they realized once they hit Tulare, that Houston was still 30 hours away. That's when they Googled "cheap flights to Texas." After dropping off the Prius in Nevada and hopping a flight to Austin, the group borrowed a friend's van and drove the rest of the way to Houston. They arrived at 11pm that night, and found the situation heart wrenching. "It's the impoverished neighboring communities that need the most help," Iqbal said. Items like feminine products, cleaning supplies, canned foods, baby supplies and hand sanitizer are all in very short supply.

In Rosenberg, a church pastor named "Pastor Chris" helped Iqbal and his friends distribute their offerings. "This was not a religious thing," Iqbal insists. "It was anybody/everybody giving in Fresno, and everyone/anyone who was in need, receiving in Texas," he said. In addition to goods and supplies, gift cards and money donations poured in as well. The Punjabi Cultural Center of Fresno collected over \$20,000, in just three days.

Of supreme importance to Iqbal and crew was complete transparency of their entire operation. He made sure to post photos and information as they worked, about where the goods were going, and how they got there. The group had agreed at the start they would each pay for their own plane tickets, lodging, and incidentals, so that all donations would go to the victims of the flood. Pure humanitarian aid at its finest.

Having left for Texas on a Friday, and returning at 3am the following Tuesday morning, Iqbal was back on campus and in classes as usual. Good on you, Iqbal and Co. Good on you.

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. Make your gift today at sjcl.edu/makegift.

SJCL ON THE MOVE

New job? Big promotion? Special honor?
Send your info to mcartier@sjcl.edu and be part of the “SJCL on the Move!”

Daisy E. Castro (Law '12) is now an Associate Attorney in the Los Angeles offices of Mullen & Filippi, where she specializes in Workers Compensation.

Lisa A. Cutts (Law '11) is now a partner at Bolen Fransen Sawyers LLP.

Maribel Hernandez (Law '04) has joined the law firm of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo as a Senior Associate in the Cerritos office. Her practice areas include Employment Law, Training & Education, Investigations and Private Sector Wage and Hour legal issues.

Mary F. Lerner (Law '02) is now Senior Counsel at Lozano Smith, where her practice areas include Labor & Employment, Facilities & Business, and Local Government.

David R. Mugridge (Law '85) has been accepted as one of the 2017 American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys “10 Best in California for Client Satisfaction.”

Lacee O'Brien (Law '14) is now an attorney with the Fresno County Department of Child Support Services.

Jeremiah L. Paul (Law '12) is now an Associate Attorney at Stockwell, Harris, Woolverton & Muehl.

Nicholas A. Schuller (Law '98) is now a Senior Attorney at the Tulare County Public Defender's Office.

Elizabeth E. Waldow (Law '09) is now a Mariposa County Deputy District Attorney.

In Memoriam

SJCL notes with sadness the passing of **Barbara H. Allison** (Law '90) on June 10th. Barbara is survived by her husband, Roger, two daughters, a son, and nine grandchildren.

SJCL notes with sadness the passing of **Robert E. Ellis** (Law '76) on July 24th. “Bob” is survived by Ruth, his wife of 45 years, along with his son, a daughter-in-law, and granddaughter.



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We need a few good students!

The SJCL Alumni Association's Annual Senior Citizens' Law Day is Saturday, October 14, 2017. We need between 3-5 student volunteers to assist in various capacities from 7:30am – 1:00pm

Learning opportunities include:

- Assist the attorneys of California Legal Services with appointments
- Assist presenter attorneys in their sessions
- Check-in and assist attendees with program schedule
- Assist with refreshment set-up and clean-up

Interested students please contact
Diane Skouti at dskouti@sjcl.edu or 559/326-1463.

...and Alumni!

\$30 a year provides free MCLE, networking opportunities with fellow alumni, and the chance to share your talents with your alma mater.

To join or pay your annual dues, please contact dskouti@sjcl.edu or visit www.sjcl.edu/alumni.

got mcle?

Saturday, January 6, 2018

8:00 – 8:30AM

Continental Breakfast

8:30AM – 12:00PM

MCLE – 3 Hours (including one hour Ethics)
with choice of six programs

Cost

Current (dues paid) SJCL
Alumni Association Members - FREE
Non-Alumni Association Members - \$100

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Diane Skouti at 559/323-2100
or dskouti@sjcl.edu