



Inter Alia

SAN JOAQUIN COLLEGE OF LAW • Volume 29, Issue 3

Masters Named SJCL Library Director

Professor Mark Masters' arrival as the new San Joaquin College of Law Library Director feels like a natural progression, rather than a change.

Masters has been an Adjunct Professor, teaching Legal Methods, for the past four years. It was a natural that he would be collaborating frequently with Professor Alicia Diaz Wrest, who was SJCL Library Director and is now Associate Academic Dean.

Wrest not only welcomes his arrival as fulltime faculty, but says the collaboration is far from over. They plan to write an article together, focusing on the changing role of libraries. She says "There is so much more going on in libraries in the digital age that enriches students' lives."

Masters says those transitional roles will be very visible as the Law School takes over the current Clovis Senior Center as the library, adding study areas, collaboration spaces, newer technology, and more. He believes it will "serve as an information hub where students, faculty, and alumni can obtain the law, study the law, and actually discuss the law with one another." He believes the groundwork is already there, due to the large presence of alumni library users, which "present opportunities to students to network and gain knowledge and understanding from practicing attorneys." The new space also opens opportunities for the SJCL faculty to work on scholarship.

Masters comes well-prepared for the task. He earned his J.D. from Loyola Law School and his Master's in Library Science from U.C.L.A. He also has a Master's in Visual Arts Administration from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts in

History/Art History from Loyola Marymount University.

He was the reference and collection development librarian at the Fresno County Public Law Library for five years prior to accepting the position at SJCL. Prior to that, he was a reference librarian at the Los Angeles County Public Law Library and a reference librarian at the Darling Law Library at UCLA. Masters also practiced law as a civil litigator in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties for five years. His areas of practice were first-party insurance policy issues, common-interest community law, education law, and neighbor disputes.

So, to paraphrase "Blazing Saddles," What's a dazzling urbane like Masters doing in a rustic setting like this? He says Fresno reminds him of the West San Fernando Valley when he was growing up there; it was an area with lots of open fields next to suburban outcroppings. "Definitely growing" is his assessment. His wife is a high school teacher in Hanford. They live with his mother-in-law and three cats, but are hoping to add some children to the tribe in the near future. It feels like home.

Masters originally intended to use his degrees in Art to build an avocation, working in art galleries, museums, and auction



Former Library Director **Alicia Diaz Wrest** poses with new Library Director **Mark Masters**

houses, but it receded into a hobby as his law career gained speed. His other passion is classic cars. He has owned everything from Mercedes Benz SLs to a GTO, 1977 Lincoln Continental, old police cars, and more, which he says he "tries" to restore.

Or maybe his other passion is students. He says they are extremely enthusiastic over his new position, with one stopping by his office on his first day as Library Director. "She came by to chat. And to see if the rumor was true."

SJCL Adds 49th Bench Officer

San Joaquin College of Law's newest addition to the Superior Court was raised in Madera, became a Marine, and then returned to his hometown as a Madera Police Officer.



Brian Austin (Law '94) recalls being on patrol with a partner who had just started law school.

"All the time he was talking about law school, talking about San Joaquin."

Austin eventually became a Deputy Sheriff in San Diego County. He enjoyed the job, but missed his family in the Valley.

He returned home and followed the advice of his former patrol partner, enrolling at SJCL, which he regards as a "community law school," pointing to involvement of multitudes of attorneys and judges who work with the school to help students.

After graduating, he opened his own firm, but also worked for a year as Assistant

General Counsel at Table Mountain Casino. He says he is surprised by the number of attorneys he knows who are former law enforcement officers. This includes his boss at Table Mountain, General Counsel Dan Casas, who is a former Fresno Police Officer, and Madera County Superior Court Judge Thomas Bender, a former FBI Agent.

Austin's election to the Superior Court seat was a tight one. In the end, he won by a mere 393 votes, and is proud of his campaign. He says the tone between himself and his opponent, Carol Moses (Law '92), was always cordial. He often made the point that both he and Moses are highly qualified for the position, and is quick to add that just because she didn't win this particular election, "it doesn't mean she's not going to be a judge here."

Austin believes his community connections and face-to-face meetings with people over his lifetime made the difference. "My election was based on commitment to community, my history in this community and will be marked by a continued commitment to my community," adding "Madera County is still small enough, where duty and commitment to community are noticed and appreciated."

At the time of this interview, Austin was in the process of dismantling his office after transferring his Ciummo contract to Jennifer Walters (Law '04). He laughed about whether or not to save his faithful hole-puncher. Meanwhile, there was still uncertainty as to when he will be enrobed. He replaces Judge Charles Wieland (Law '83), who retired August 31st. He will be seated on the bench no later than January 8, 2019, but the Governor could have him take the position sooner.

He might actually appreciate a breather to spend a little time with his three children and eight grandchildren. Or maybe catch up with his old patrol partner, whom he will see soon enough either way. The former partner is now Madera County Superior Court Judge Michael Jurkovich (Law '90).

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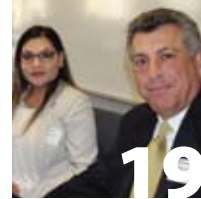
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Get Social with SJCL



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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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SJCL ALUMNI FROM WILD, CARTER & TIPTON (L-R) **David Yengoyan** (Law '05), **Steve Dias** (Law '07), **Robin Hall** (Law '07), **Cristina Jelladian-Buchner** (Law '04), and Firm President **Patrick Gorman**.

Legal Legacy 125 Years Strong

The law firm claiming the title of Fresno's oldest is in the midst of celebrating its 125th year. Established in 1893 by partners Orlen Lee Everts and David S. Ewing, the firm's current incarnation as Wild, Carter & Tipton still embodies the founders' legacy of providing the best possible legal service for the people of the Valley. During a visit to this venerable law firm, we found attorneys with dedication and commitment worthy of such uncommon longevity, many of whom are SJCL grads.

In the 1933 edition of California Biographical Sketches of Leading Citizens, the gentlemen of Everts and Ewing commanded respect. David Ewing, of Scotch-Irish descent, was the son of a Yale-educated father who crossed the plains by ox-team and purchased a farm in Fresno County.

David attended Business College and dabbled in a variety of fields: as a county surveyor, tax collector, and deputy school superintendent, before fulfilling his true desire to be a lawyer. His partner Orlen L. Everts was of English extraction, and the only son of a real estate salesman who came to Fresno after the death of his wife in Illinois. Orlen joined his father in real estate after high school, but eventually made his way to the University of Michigan Law School. Upon Orlen's return to Fresno, at

the tender age of 21, he and David opened the Law Office of Everts and Ewing.

The firm handled numerous cases of historic importance leading the partners to great local prominence. Perhaps the most noted was the ground-breaking suit of *Zibbell v. the Southern Pacific Co.* in 1911. It was a personal injury case, Mr. Zibbell having been run over by a train. The issue of negligence arose when witnesses said the train was traveling "silent" after dark, with no bells or warning whistles. The attorneys won their client a large sum in damages due to his loss of both arms and a leg in the accident.

It is the standard of dedication, as noted on the firm's current website, that has enabled the firm to prosper for well over a century. For 125 years, the needs of clients, both in the short and long term, have remained of utmost concern.

Firm president Patrick Gorman says there are several reasons for the endurance of the firm.

"We represent individual clients and businesses of all sizes over the long haul, and our clients tend to come back over and over again, because of our commitment to their best interests."

In this day of unprecedented job hopping from one employer to the next, it is telling to find that many of the attorneys,

as well as support staff at the firm, have been there a long time. Patrick has been at Wild Carter for his entire 30-year career, and says there are numerous assistants who have logged 10-20 years.

Associate Attorney David Yengoyan (Law '05) says he has enjoyed a great working environment during his ten years at the firm. "There is good rapport among the associates, shareholders and support staff," he said. "This firm is full of talented and experienced attorneys in all areas of practice. There is never an issue that comes up that some other attorney has not previously dealt with."

That "someone" knows "something" about any area of law is no surprise, given that the firm is truly full service. Agricultural Law, Bankruptcy Law, Civil Litigation, Construction, Business, Corporations/Partnerships, Employment, Estate Planning, Family, Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury, Real Estate, Tax, Elder Abuse, Wrongful Death, and High-Speed Rail are all practice areas.

"The variety of areas we cover work together and impact one another, which is a tremendous resource for our clients," said Associate Attorney Robin Hall (Law '07). "I can send clients with multiple needs to other attorneys in-house, who have expertise outside of my area of practice, which

is the best possible scenario.” Like firm founder David Ewing, Robin chose law after working in an unrelated field. For ten years, she worked in the fields of accounting and finance, before and throughout law school.

While the original firm of Everts and Ewing gained fame for handling criminal cases with a high conviction rate, the current firm practices nearly everything but criminal law. But the firm still adheres to its role as a community servant.

It is the strong work ethic and sincere desire to serve that has endured throughout the decades. As an unbiased, non-SJCL alum, Patrick points to a common quality among the SJCL grads at the firm.

“The tremendous turn-over among professionals today is not found among SJCL grads,” Patrick says. “We recognize that SJCL grads do not subscribe to today’s abbreviated work ethic and loyalty. People who have Valley roots are willing to put in the time and commitment it takes to serve clients in the best possible way. This career is not 9-5,” he added.

Cristina Jelladian-Buchner (Law ’04) has been at Wild Carter for nearly 12 years. She says the professional preparation she received at SJCL was phenomenal. “We are able to hit the ground running due to the education we receive,” she said. Born in the Valley, Cristina says her family was full of



“Wall of Judges” at Wild, Carter & Tipton. A half-dozen attorneys from the firm have become members of the bench

entrepreneurs, all of whom have a strong work ethic. “This work ethic has continued to motivate me in my profession.”

Cristina also credited the availability of SJCL professors, beyond the classroom, for her success in law school. “You develop an individual relationship because professors at SJCL make time to meet with you one on one and review the subject matter in more detail. Dean Pearson and Professor Purvis took the time to help me outside of class, which was instrumental in my educa-

tion and ultimately in taking and passing the Bar Exam. For this, I will always be grateful,” she said.

Patrick noted that a lot of attorneys have worked at Wild, Carter & Tipton through the years, with a half dozen going on to become judges. “It’s those who have roots in the Valley, and a stake in the outcome of their work, like SJCL grads, who are highly sought after,” he said. They, and others like them, will be the attorneys who take this firm into the next century.





Alumni Association Board members **Gabriel Brickey** (Law '04) and **Kristina Garabedian** (Law '14) present donation check to **Jenny Dolio**, Development and Stewardship Coordinator of the Marjaree Mason Center.

Alumni & Staff Donations Twice as Nice

For the second year in a row, the Marjaree Mason Center (MMC) received an extra dose of generosity and support from SJCL alumni and staff. The Annual Marjaree Mason Children's Christmas Party is traditionally well supported by the donations of alumni, faculty and staff. Even after the purchase of personalized children's gifts, goodies, and the extras that were offered at last year's party, there was enough left over to present the center with a check.

We are so very proud of the commitment our grads express in service to community and cause, in both your professional and personal support of the survivors of domestic violence. In a letter expressing her gratitude, MMC Executive Director Nicole Linder said the annual party (and donations) make a truly meaningful impact each and every year.

Alumni Association

BY KRISTINA GARABEDIAN, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

The Alumni Association has had a busy and productive year to this point. We recently completed our third annual Alumni Appreciation Night with the Grizzlies, which was an enjoyable event for all. This year we were on the party deck and, despite it being a little warm, everyone had a great time. Our sponsor, US Legal, provided beverages for the group and some fun giveaways. Two of our members even caught a fly ball. Hopefully we can grow this event in years to come as it is a wonderful way for alumni to bring their families and reconnect with each other while enjoying a ballgame.

On other fronts, the Alumni Association continues to grow and improve. We are continuing to be active on social media with a Facebook page for the association. I encourage all of you who are on Facebook to like the page so you'll stay aware of the events. In addition, you can post about jobs, and share photos of you with fellow alumni. We are continuing to use a new database – Member Planet – to join/renew

annual membership. You will receive automatic reminders when your membership is up for renewal. If you are a recent graduate, I want to remind you that your first year in the alumni association is free!

The SJCL Alumni Association is a great way to get involved with the legal community, stay connected to your classmates, and meet new people. The membership comes with great benefits, including our annual Got MCLE? in January. This event alone is worth the price of membership. You also get a discount on the golf tournament and other alumni association events. I encourage you all to join/renew your membership now, so you don't miss out.

We are always looking for ways to expand upon our vision. If you have any ideas, please reach out or attend one of our monthly meetings, typically held the third Wednesday of each month, at 6:00 pm, at the Law School. You can also email sjclalumniassociation@gmail.com. It is a great honor to serve as President of the Alumni Association. Please reach out if you have questions, comments, or concerns.

Our Newest Colleagues

The Fifth Appellate District, held a special Bar Admission Ceremony in the Sisk Courthouse on June 6th.

New admittees to the Bar got advice, warnings, and even a personal confession as the Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District, held a special Bar Admission Ceremony in the Sisk Courthouse on June 6th.

“I have this recurring nightmare where I am walking into the Bar exam room completely unprepared.” Associate Justice M. Bruce Smith says it’s been going on since he passed the Bar 37 years ago. He adds “And I’m not the only one.”

He advised the new attorneys not only to join with the legal community, but also find mentors, especially if they are working at a firm. “Look to one of the old geezers who hired you.”

Presiding Justice Brad R. Hill was one of many who reminded the new attorneys of the congeniality of the local bar, but had a word of advice for maintaining it in the future. He says he’s seen countless e-mail crossfire wars that didn’t need to happen. “Pick up the phone,” he advised. “Have a cup of coffee and talk.”

Superior Court Presiding Judge Alan M. Simpson (Law ’83) spoke about the value of honesty and civility, but “have fun,” and “learn the value of friends.”

Magistrate Judge Sheila K. Oberto welcomed the new admittees to the Federal Court system, which she described as “user-friendly, and always here to help you.” Like all of the other speakers, she warned them about protecting their reputations. Above all, she asked them to follow “the Rule of Law, not the Rule of Strength, Wealth, or Power.”

Jeremy Dobbins was sworn in a week earlier by the Hon. Jonathan Conklin. He already had plans to open immediately the Law Office of Jeremy M. Dobbins, specializing in Personal Injury, Employment Law, Criminal Defense, and Civil Rights.

Congratulations to our new attorneys!



Jeremy Dobbins is congratulated by the **Honorable Jonathan Conklin** after he administered the oath.



Michael Haw and **Kuljit Singh** exchange congrats before being sworn in.

Under the Shadow of ICE: One Law Student's Experience

BY JASON OLESON, REVIEWED BY AMANDA MORAN

I am a fourth-year law student who works as a Clerk at the Moran Law Firm. This spring, my Supervising Attorney, Amanda Moran (Law '16) asked me to prepare and draft a Bail Reduction Motion for our client, Jose Maldonado.

Generally, Bail Reduction motions are routine in nature—and almost certainly they are denied. However, *In re Humphrey* was recently decided by the Appellate Court for the First District. The significance of this decision is that it provided case law which reverted the pendulum of justice back towards the Defendant's favor in that financial ability to post bond is an issue the Court may address—certainly this was before the Governor had signed his newest bail bill.

For the Moran Law Firm, this decision had an immediate impact on Bail Reduction hearings, because our clients are often financially unable to post the high bail amounts. So I was optimistic about the Bail Reduction hearing for Jose. I met him under unfortunate circumstances within the Fresno County Jail. Jose is an undocumented immigrant, with a pending asylum claim, who was alleged to have committed felony child abuse. He retained our firm to represent him at his trial. While visiting Jose at the jail with Amanda, I learned that there was much more to Jose than his immigration status and these allegations.

Jose shared his story with us. He was brought to America when he was six years old by his father and spent nearly all of his life here. Indeed, Jose had never returned to Mexico after his arrival. He grew up in American culture, attended school, fell in love, had children, and worked hard to support his family. He and his fiancé were establishing a stable home when the child abuse allegations arose. It appeared that the false allegations stemmed from a spurned former love and their shared daughter. Jose continued to express that he did not commit the acts alleged and stated he would not be receptive of any plea deals because he is innocent—Jose's case was going to trial. We informed Jose that the first move would be to file a motion for a reduction of his \$220,000.00 bail because that amount was



ABOVE: Attorney **Amanda Moran** is interviewed by *Fresno Bee* reporter **Yesenia Amaro** about the case.

financially unobtainable for him. Without posting bail, Jose would spend months in the Fresno County Jail before his case was ready for trial.

At the bail reduction hearing on March 20, 2018, Fresno County Superior Court Judge Alvarez (Law '95) indicated that he was inclined to reduce bail in this matter because Jose was an ideal candidate. However, Judge Alvarez stated that he was concerned about ICE possibly detaining and deporting Jose if he was released on bail while this case was still unfolding. Jose's bail reduction motion was denied, and despite his claims of factual innocence, Jose remained in jail awaiting trial.

Amanda informed the *Fresno Bee* that: "Because of pending charges and he's not legal, ICE would immediately deport him and the court found that he was safer in here (in county jail) because if they release him on bail, he would be deported and then this issue would never be resolved."

Amanda and I visited Jose following the bail reduction hearing. Understandably, Jose was disappointed. Over the course of seven months, we witnessed Jose's emo-

tional state decline, as he became more and more depressed being away from his family—despite being innocent of the allegations against him. The hardest part was trying to explain how it was to his benefit to remain in jail because it was safer and more predictable than releasing him on bail. ICE did unjustifiably play a factor in Jose's Constitutional right to bail because there was a very real concern of ICE removing or deporting him prior to the conclusion of his case.

I watched Amanda spend hours behind the scenes preparing Jose's case for trial. I participated in preparing witness questions and saw how little evidence actually existed to support the allegations. As a team, we also prepared questions for jury selection that would address immigration issues, so that we could ensure that Jose would receive a fair trial with jurors who would not immediately find him guilty simply because he was an undocumented immigrant.

On August 06, 2018, the date set for trial, The Fresno County District Attorney's Office dismissed the charges against

Jose due to a lack of evidence. Amanda immediately placed on the Court Record that “Jose’s charges have been dismissed, and he has a pending political asylum claim” so that any ICE officers who were in the courtroom would know that he should not be deported. That evening, Amanda, armed with Jose’s State Department records and formal Asylum paperwork, waited as Jose walked out of the Fresno County Jail. In those moments when he ran up to his fiancé and held his little girl, there was still a fear that ICE officers would be waiting to take him.

Even now, Jose fears ICE may arrest, detain and potentially deport him despite having no criminal charges pending against him. This man, who works hard to support his family and is making every effort to be an excellent father, continues to live in fear. The Moran Law Firm literally worked a miracle to get Jose’s charges dropped, but no matter how hard we work, we cannot protect him from deportation.

I was raised to believe that every person, within the borders of the United States, has guaranteed rights granted to them by the United States Constitution. I was raised to believe that these rights are not discriminatory. They are not exclusory. They pertain to every person within the borders of this Country. These rights include a right to be free from oppression; a right to a reasonable bail; a right to be free from cruel or unusual punishment; and a right to due process, including procedural due process. The actions and operations of ICE directly infringes upon these guaranteed rights! ICE devalues a person’s inherent right to dignity, their right to be treated as a human; instead, ICE makes the distinction that somehow a person without papers is a second-rate human being. A mentality such as this can only promote and bolster discrimination.

Jose spent seven long months incarcerated in the Fresno County Jail, awaiting pending litigation. During that time, he was deprived of his liberties, his rights and his freedom of movement. Jose was deprived of the right to tuck his daughter into bed, and attend her dance lessons and life events. Jose, having spent all but six emergent years in the United States, is entitled to the same guarantees and protections afforded to him by the California and United States Constitution as every other individual within the borders of this great nation.



Jose Maldonado hugs his fiancé and daughter after seven months in jail.

SJCL Hosts Second Annual Rural Legal Access Summit



LAST YEAR'S SPEAKERS INCLUDED (L-R) Professor **Andrew Kucera** (Law '13), UC Berkeley School of Law Professor **William Kell**, and UC Davis School of Law Professor **Mary Louise Frampton**

On October 12, 2018, San Joaquin College of Law (SJCL) will host the Second Annual Rural Legal Access Summit. Participants may earn three hours of MCLE free of charge (1 Hour Elimination of Bias and 2 Hours General Credit).

The Summit brings together professors, students, lawyers, judges, community leaders, and social justice experts, to explore methods and practices for improving legal access to underserved populations in rural areas of the San Joaquin Valley.

The Summit will consist of presentations by social justice leaders, moderated panels of community leaders and lawyers, and a keynote presentation. Central California Legal Services (CCLS), a sponsor of the Summit, will also recognize select students during a special ceremony for the Wiley W. Manuel Awards for Pro Bono Service.

SJCL is excited to host this year's keynote speaker, Professor Lisa R. Pruitt. Prof. Pruitt is the Martin Luther King, Jr., Professor of Law at the University of California, Davis, School of Law. She has taught, written, and spoken extensively about rural legal access and related issues. Her courses include Law and Rural Livelihoods, Working Class Whites and the Law, Feminist Legal Theory, and Torts. Her scholarly writing includes many papers on rural difference and rural invisibility in relation to the law, and the rural lawyer shortage. Prof. Pruitt's most recent work, entitled "Legal Deserts: a Multi-State Perspective on Rural Access to Justice," is slated for publication in the *Harvard Law and Policy Review*.

The Summit was conceived from SJCL's new "Practice 99" curriculum, a collaborative effort between law professors at U.C. Berkeley, U.C. Davis, and SJCL. The Practice 99 curriculum combines law

practice management, technology, and access to justice, and teaches law students how to start community-based low-bono law practices that are profitable and socially fulfilling.

The Summit will be presented by Law Students for Community Advancement, a student group that seeks to invigorate a culture of civic engagement at SJCL, and empower the student body by facilitating positive and impactful relationships with the community.

The Summit will run from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. A continental breakfast, catered lunch, and refreshments will be served. There is no cost to attend.

You can register for the Summit at www.sjcl.edu/rlas. For questions about the Summit, please email Professor Andrew S. Kucera at akucera@sjcl.edu, or Law Students for Community Advancement at lsc-board@student.sjcl.edu.



Your Social Media Resume

BY MISSY MCKAI CARTIER, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER



Everything is always changing, but it feels like the wheel of change is now turbo-charged. Ye old face-to-face interview accompanied by a tight and meaningful resume (on good stock paper, of course!) still exists, but the road to that point has a few twists.



Enter social media.

Business Daily News reports 70 percent of employers used social media to screen job candidates this year. It was only 60 percent last year, and a paltry eleven percent in 2006.



Some feel the best way to avoid having potential employers see something unsavory about them is to close those accounts, but that could actually have an unexpected effect; social media is so pervasive now that it raises an eyebrow among employers when a candidate is virtually non-existent. According to Workopolis, prospective employers most often are using LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook to look beyond the resume. They want to know if the candidate is well-connected within the field, has a professional-looking photo, shares “insightful” information, and appears to have a personality that fits well with the current team. They obviously don’t want to see drugs, excessive alcohol use, or illegal activities, and those engaged in angry rants and attacks may not be perceived as good fits with “the current team.” The Society for Human Resources Management reports 49% of employers said they rejected a candidate based on content



found on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or LinkedIn profiles. Those same employers may potentially face risk if it can be proven they are intentionally weeding out protected classifications, such as religion, sexual orientation, race or age.

For those who worry that conversations and photos could be a problem, they don’t have to be. California passed legislation six years ago making it illegal for employers, prospective employers, and even institutions of higher education to ask for social media passwords. At that time, the sponsor of the bill said there were more than a hundred such cases before the National Labor Relations Board, including a Michigan teachers’ aid who was suspended for refusing to provide access to her Facebook account. Nowadays, California employers can only look at what is public, but the private parts can be kept that way.

There are also search engines. *Business Daily News* says nearly 70% of hiring managers use Google, Bing, Yahoo, and others to do candidate research. While search engines can’t be completely controlled, adding positive stories can help tip the scales. This is part of the reason why the *San Joaquin Agricultural Review* is now online; those *Law Review* authors now find their comment or article comes up when their names are searched. It is the same for the articles in *Inter Alia*, including the “On the Move” feature.

So maybe the Law School is trying to boost your resume behind your back!

The *Law Review* is Seeking Professional Authors

The SJALR Editorial Board welcomes diverse articles written by legal scholars, practitioners, and authorities outside the legal community for review and publication consideration. Articles should be scholarly in style and contain incisive analysis, informed opinion, and content of interest to the legal community, addressing topics which are unique, new, or changing in the field of agriculture. A writer is not restricted to any particular viewpoint, and the SJALR welcomes novel and diverse points of view from all parts of the country. The SJALR

is an annual publication of San Joaquin College of Law, located in California’s Central Valley, one of the richest agricultural regions of the world. The SJALR serves as a forum for the exploration and discussion of important and timely legal issues pertaining to agriculture. If you are interested in obtaining more information about the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review, including how to submit a Professional Article, please contact the SJALR board by email at lrboard@sjcl.edu, phone 559-920-8289, or visit the website, www.sjcl.edu/sjalr.



Back to School Party



Staff member **Kenia Garcia** and Dean **Janice Pearson**



Current students **Heather Thomas** and **Willie Barrera**



Current student **Shannon Wentworth** and her son bowl “big!”



Jennifer Wharton (Law '18) and current student **Jeffrey Wharton**



Board Member **Jesse Molina** (Law '13) and Associate Academic Dean **Alicia Diaz Wrest** (Law '10)



Mario Gonzalez (Law '16)



Current student **Laura Higareda-Chapa** with her spouse **Tim Chapa**



Alumni Association Board Member **Natalie Packer** (Law '08)



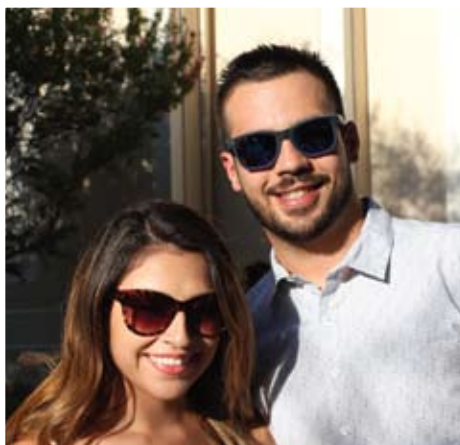
Current students **Rachel Baskin** and **Adriana Mendoza-Gurrola** with **Darcy Brown** (Law '18)



Daizy Rincon with current students **Rena Harrison** and **Grace Zeluff**, with staff member **Kerry Hanson**



Current student **Grace Zeluff** prepares the pinata for the kids.



Current student **Sebastian Santana** with his fiancée **Briana Mendoza**



Current student **Travis Tubandt** with his fiancée **Megan Hopkins**



Matthew Green (Law '16), **Nichola Krebsbach** (Law '16), and **Joe Alindajao** (Law '16)



Current student **Jose Chacon**, **Henry Campa** (Law '11), **Teresa Dyer**, and **John Dyer** (Law '06)



Academic Dean **Justin Atkinson** playing drums with his band **Red Bank**

Social Justice Scholarship Fund

BY HOWARD K. WATKINS

Members of the legal community and others have created a scholarship fund at SJCL to endow an annual *Mike Rhodes Social Justice Scholarship* at the Law School. The scholarship is named to honor Mike Rhodes, founder of the *Community Alliance* newspaper and longtime advocate for the homeless. Although not a smoker, Mike was recently diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer for which he is receiving medical treatment.

The fundraising effort is led by Steve Malm (Law '08) and Howard Watkins, a Past-President of the Fresno County Bar Association and Fresno County Photo Laureate. They hope to reach a goal of \$20,000 to fund an annual \$1,000 scholarship in perpetuity. Persons willing to contribute to reach this goal should make their tax-deductible donation payable to "San Joaquin



(L-R) Mike Rhodes, Howard K. Watkins, and Steve Malm (Law '08)

College of Law" with a memo notation of "Rhodes Soc. Jus. Scholarship Fund" and mail their check to the Law School.

For more information, contact SJCL at 559-323-2100 or email Howard K. Watkins at howardkwatkins@gmail.com.

A Citizenship Dream

Client Services Coordinator Aracely Mota has worked at the New American Legal Clinic (NALC) for almost three years and says she has noticed a change in the clientele over the past year or so.

"It's shocking to see so many people who have been in this country, holding Green Cards, for forty or fifty years. Then suddenly this year, they show up here wanting to be citizens." She says it makes her wonder what motivates the sudden move when they have been eligible for decades.

Two of the cases stick in her mind. The first was a woman who had recently been diagnosed with cancer. "She was going through a hard time. Her hair had fallen out and she wasn't sure if her English would be good enough to pass," Aracely says. "She wasn't sure how long she had, but it was her dream to become a citizen before she died." Amazingly,



the woman survived, became a citizen, and returned to NALC, just to show them how grateful and happy she was.

The second case involved a woman who had survived cancer twice, only to have it return for a third time after she had submit-

ted her citizenship paperwork through NALC. Despite her deteriorating condition, she too had the dream of becoming a citizen if it was the last thing she did. "She was buying ribbons to wear during the citizenship ceremony, buying tiny American flags." Aracely says she realized her dream just one month before the cancer finally won.

NALC has represented nearly 4,000 clients since its inception, with more than a quarter of them becoming citizens so far. Aracely says many are coming from a hurtful place. Sometimes it's financial, sometimes medical, and sometimes they are the victims of violence.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, or if you would like to offer pro bono work to the clinic, please call NALC at 559/326-1553.

Cha Wins Kharazi Book Scholarship

Silas Cha's American story began with his birth in Laos during the Viet Nam War. His family moved to a refugee camp in Thailand when he was six-years-old, and then to America three years later. They landed in Nashville, where Cha jokes his first three words in English were "Yes, No, and Hee Haw!" Beyond the joke, however, Cha found a kinship with the so-called "hillbillies." He points to the home of the Hmong in the mountains of Laos, and their lack of access to education and health care as being three common factors in the cultures.

Two years later Cha's parents gathered up their ten children and moved to Fresno, where Cha attended E.S.L. classes at Kings Canyon Middle School and eventually graduated from McLane High. He subsequently earned a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from U. C. Berkeley and a Masters at Fresno State in International Relations.

His trek, in many ways, parallels that of Ty Kharazi (Law '96), the founder of the Kharazi Book Scholarship. Kharazi was a 16-year-old college student in 1977, 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. Kharazi has established both the Kharazi Bar Study Support Scholarship to offset the cost of a bar review course and this book scholarship, recalling those two expenses were outside the very tight budget which he lived by during law school.

Cha, who says he never learned his birthday and describes his age as "pushing 50," has two daughters, ages six and ten. He believes "Having family gives you a different perspective."

Cha says he has only succeeded by trying "to capitalize on every opportunity," adding "If I didn't succeed, it is because of



lack of discipline." Over the years, he has worked for a non-profit assisting Asian Refugees, as well as serving as an adjunct professor of Political Science and Asian American Studies at West Hills Community College, College of the Sequoias, and Reedley College.

Still, it's not enough. "I always wanted to be a lawyer," he says. He acknowledges the credibility and social prestige the title brings, but is more interested in something else. "I will always be a servant to my family and my community," he says. "This will give me the insider track to truly help my community."

Rodriguez Wins Goodwin Scholarship



This year's winner of the Hugh Goodwin Scholarship is not only the first person in her family to graduate college, she's also the first to graduate high school. Elizabeth Rodriguez is a first generation American, but her humble upbringing never led her to believe she would ever be anything less

than a lawyer. It's a goal she has been pursuing since she was a child. While it may have seemed like an outlandishly lofty plan, her parents always supported it. The \$5,000 Goodwin Scholarship will help do the same.

Rodriguez graduated from Fresno Pacific University with a degree in Criminology and has been extensively involved in community service with her church in Tulare, ranging from translating services to organizing trips and donating musical instruments to children. She has also served as a mediator in the FPU Criminology and Restorative Justice Studies program.

Her long term goal as an attorney is to better connect the Hispanic Community with attorneys. She says she has seen a tremendous lack of trust for attorneys within the community, leaving many to try to solve their legal problems on their own. "We live in a time where the Mexican com-

munity is living in great fear of deportation and because of this, they do not seek legal help and do not adequately practice their rights. They need to be reassured their voice can be heard because legal representation is not only for the elite."

"Ways to reach out to the Mexican community and welcome them include pro bono cases, workshops in community centers or parks, and fundraisers for necessities." She adds "This is my home and this is where I want to practice law."

Rodriguez shares her home with her two daughters, including a two-year-old and a nine-year-old. She laughs when she talks about both she and the nine-year-old heading back to school together. Her daughter will tell her "Mom, get ready; it's time to go to school." When she returns at the end of the day, her daughter wants to know what she learned.

Student Bar Association

BY JARED BERTONI, SBA PRESIDENT

The Student Bar Association is excited to welcome our new and returning students to SJCL this Fall. As another promising academic year begins, there is a lot to look forward to.

The year started off with our annual Back to School Night celebration. Attendance from students, alumni, family, and friends surpassed all expectations! Thank you to everyone who helped with the event and everyone who attended. A special thank you goes out to our very own Academic Dean, Justin Atkinson and his band, Red Bank, for providing wonderful live music at the event!

In addition, the SBA held a back to school supply drive for local elementary school students in need. This supply drive was a success thanks to the overwhelming support of SJCL students and faculty who

gave voluntary donations. I would like to personally thank our Vice President Grace Zeluff for coordinating this important effort.

The SBA will also host the Barristers' Ball in the spring. This annual event showcases the achievements of our students and faculty. This is the perfect event to attend if you are interested in being active and involved at SJCL.

SJCL celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2019! It's true what they say, time flies when you're having fun! As the 50th Anniversary approaches, it is an important goal for the SBA to be active, engaged, and supportive. This is a monumental milestone in the history of SJCL. I encourage everyone to get involved and join in the year-long celebration!

The Student Bar Association wishes you a successful and rewarding year ahead!



SBA President **Jared Bertoni**

Alumni at the Grizzlies



Several brave baseball fans endured the June heat to share a ballpark buffet and plenty of cold beverages (courtesy of sponsor US Legal) while reconnecting with fellow law school grads at Alumni Night at the Grizzlies. There were free tee-shirts cannon-balling and foul balls flying aplenty for those who were not deterred by the 100+ degree weather. Everyone reported having a great time.

School Supplies from SJCL



Smiles all around as kids at Weldon Elementary School beam over a donation of back to school supplies orchestrated by the SBA. SBA members **Jared Bertoni**, **Vaughan Rios**, **Grace Zeluff**, and **Nathalia Aguirre** flank Weldon Principal **Ray Lozano** after unloading six boxes donated by the SJCL Family.

Delta Theta Phi

BY AMANDA BUSICK, DELTA THETA PHI DEAN

Delta Theta Phi (DTP) is the only professional legal fraternity at SJCL. DTP provides members the opportunity to promote personal, professional, and intellectual growth. Since the early twentieth century, DTP has continued to grow its international network among law students, legal professionals, and judges. Not only has DTP stood the test of time, but also it has continued to evolve and become the only law fraternity in the world with its own authoritatively recognized law review.

Delta Theta Phi has continued to be a perennial student organization and a valuable resource available to students at SJCL. The mentorship program, study sessions, and social events set DTP apart from any student organization on campus. All students who chose to make the commitment to DTP are not just becoming a member of another student organization, but are



DELTA THETA PHI OFFICERS (L-R) **Mario Gonzalez Silvestre, Jordan Scrivner, Rachel Baskin, Amanda Busick, Zack Groothuyzen, Kelsey Schulteis, and Jason Oleson**

continuing to set a standard of excellence and elevate the rich legal history of DTP.

Every spring, DTP recognizes its members and provides scholarships to those who have demonstrated commitment, hard work, and academic excellence. DTP provides a gateway for incoming students to

give back to SJCL and exhibit stewardship. DTP's commitment to professionalism, academic success, and mentorship serves as a foundation for all law students as they begin their legal education, and transition into their legal profession.

LawSUIT

BY SHANNON WENTWORTH, LAWSUIT PRESIDENT

Founded by former student and local attorney David Ibarra in 2007, Law Students United in Tolerance (LawSUIT) is a campus social club that celebrates diversity and works for the inclusion of underrepresented people in the law.

LawSUIT is committed to supporting our club members' success in law school and beyond. To that end, we are partnering with Delta Theta Phi's (DTP) mentor program, so that DTP members who are also LawSUIT members receive mentorship from a LawSUIT peer. Additionally, we will be offering a homework club on campus, each Wednesday from noon to 1:25pm. We will meet in the student lounge where upper division students will assist first-year students.

This year, LawSUIT will feature a speaker at each monthly meeting, starting with NALC professor and immigration attorney Leah Tuisavalalo. All of our meetings feature dinner before the evening classes begin. Meetings are the second Monday of each month from 5:15-6:15pm.



LAWSUIT OFFICERS (L-R) **Shannon Wentworth, Rosie Palomino, and Vaughan Rios**

We are also going to put our group to work on a few local volunteer projects throughout the year to give back to our community and forge lasting friendships within our group.

Our diversity is our strength. Our goal is to harness this strength for the success of our students, good of our community and improvement of access to the law for traditionally underrepresented people.

Law Students for Community Advancement

BY ALI M. HUDA, LAW STUDENTS FOR COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT PRESIDENT & COMMUNITY LIAISON

Law Students for Community Advancement (LSCA), promotes a campus-wide culture of civic engagement, tolerance, and equality of opportunity. We oppose all forms of unjust discrimination and believe our education as future lawyers is not limited to the core law school curriculum, but rather extends deeply into the personal relationships we establish with our community as we enter the practice of law.

Although our organization is new, we already have a great track record as social-justice advocates in our community. In its inaugural year, LSCA participated in a highly successful toy drive that collected over 100 toys for Syrian refugee children in Fresno. This was a successful collaborative effort with various organizations throughout the area



LSCA OFFICERS (L-R) Ali Huda, Rosie Palomino, and George Harris.

that came together to warmly welcome our new neighbors, who escaped a brutal civil war in their homeland.

Last year, we hosted informational discussions focused on resolving genuine community problems, including immigration reform and refugee aid. We also

hosted a panel of attorneys who discussed emerging opportunities in public interest law, and also launched our Attorney-Student Mentorship program, where LSCA members were paired with like-minded attorneys practicing in diverse legal fields.

This year, LSCA will collaborate with Professor Andrew Kucera, alongside UC Davis and UC Berkeley, to host the *Second Annual Rural Legal Access Summit*. This event seeks to highlight various problems that rural communities of modest economic means face when seeking to access lawyers to resolve their legal issues.

Expect many more great projects from LSCA throughout the year. If you wish to learn about our events, or hear more about our membership benefits, please send LSCA an email at lsc-board@student.sjcl.edu.

Christian Legal Society

BY EMILIO AVELLANEDA, CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT

The Christian Legal Society (CLS) is dedicated to reaching law school campuses for Christ and supporting future lawyers in their careers in law.

Since 1997, CLS has ministered and provided resources to thousands of students at over 150 law school campuses and several Christian colleges. We have a presence in over 120 law schools nationwide including the newly formed SJCL chapter.

At SJCL, our CLS campus ministry is helping to encourage and equip students by connecting them with local lawyers and mentors, providing opportunities to engage students in the profession at the CLS National Conference and Regional Retreats, and providing online resources to equip students in their law school journey.

My colleagues and I are dedicated to helping students thrive as Christians and



LSCA OFFICERS (L-R) Dustin Gallegos and Emilio Avellaneda.

lawyers. Since the official start of our CLS campus ministry, Dustin Gallegos, Rena Harrison, Jeremy Mathews, myself and our newest board member Elizabeth Vilanueva will cultivate a desire in students to

practice faithful stewardship of their legal gifts, stemming from spiritual formation and resulting in lifelong service to others in the community.

Dean's Reception Inspires

SJCL's newest law students brought equal parts excitement and nerves with them to the fall 2018 Dean's Reception before the start of classes. After mingling over introductions and hors d'oeuvres, the 1Ls and their families were invited to absorb some insight during presentations by SJCL graduate and famed attorney Warren Paboojian, and current students.

"Your time here as a law student began tonight, the minute you stepped into this building," said Adam Awad, 3L, with an enthusiasm so infectious it was met with applause. "You are now part of the SJCL legacy." He reflected on the angst and fear that is common to all 1Ls, and advised like a preacher at the pulpit; "Find comfort among one another and embrace the uncertainty!"

SJCL Hall of Famer Warren Paboojian (Law '85) talked about his love for his alma mater, and congratulated the new-comers for making the "wise decision" to enroll local. "A law degree is the best education money can buy," he said. "You will always have your JD and a career, no matter what."



Warren Paboojian (Law '85) joins current law students on a panel at the Dean's Reception.

Welcome First Year Students

How do you know you want to be an attorney? Here are some of the answers from incoming students at the 2018 SJCL Orientation:

I was inspired watching a trial at the Fresno County Courthouse, and how powerfully the attorney argued for his client. "I see me in those shoes."

I have a passion for law and justice "and always wanted to be Judge Judy."

I just went through a divorce where I had to face my ex-husband in court three times, which piqued my interest in law. "And I would save money in case I get divorced again."

"I was finishing my undergrad degree at Fresno State at the same time my roommate

(Chris Matthes, Law '16) was finishing law school. He told me to come here."

"To change the system, you have to be part of the system."

I have been a crime victim and "I want to fight for women who have been victims."

Both of my parents are pediatricians and I worked for Child Services. I want to work with the wards of the court.

"My boss talked me into it."

"So I can have better arguments" with my wife.

"The legal sector is one of the few places where you can still extract justice."

"I want to provide for my family. We have very expensive tastes."

"I came back from the military in 2013, and I miss the fight."

I was an owner of a Cross Fit and was working out with Josh Kruger (Law '12), A.J. Driscoll (Law '13) and Mike Brady (Law '12). "They were surprised I was not an attorney."

Welcome to the 72 new 1Ls, bearing degrees from more than 20 different educational institutions, and dreams from every sector. While Fresno State and Fresno Pacific are well-represented, the incoming class also includes those with degrees from eight of the ten U.C. campuses, along with degrees from Temple University, American University, Arizona State, and others. While many said they want to serve people living in poverty, give back to their community, or work on immigration, others are passionate about agriculture, marijuana laws, environmental law, elder law, mental health reform, or just "doing something greater than myself."

Student groups including the Student Bar Association, LawSUIT, the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* Board, the Christian Legal Society, Delta Theta Phi, and Law Students for Community Advancement also welcomed the new class with offers of help and advice.



Q

What is your craziest (funniest/weirdest) memory as a 1L?



Rena Harrison
4L

“I was walking with Professor Goodrich to class and was heavily engaged in conversation. I tripped and fell flat on my face right in front of her. She was taken aback, and I found it both mortifying and hilarious. I have the utmost respect for Professor Goodrich and hold her in high esteem, but it was a bit of a precursor and a very real introduction to the harsh reality of Torts!”



Timothy Miller
4L

“‘She wields a large axe.’ Upon returning for the second semester of my first year and entering a class with one half as many people as just a few weeks prior, the attrition rate was quite visible.”

What They Said...

“My favorite memory from 1L involves spending hours in the upstairs library room with Josh Hernandez discussing arcane points of law. Especially *Batsakis v. Demotsis*. In my weaker moments when I’m assailed on all sides by lawyers who stress the “practical” side of things, I think back to our conversations in that room. That was a great time!”



Jason Crockford
Class of 2018

“I had a permanent “deer in the headlights look” my entire year. I didn’t realize how bad it was until multiple professors began to stop mid-lecture to ask if I was understanding – because I “looked confused.” This happened so often I developed the semi-automatic reply: “No, that’s just my face!” Although intimidating, first year law is extremely exciting when the light bulb finally comes on. The emerging change in us as 1Ls was inevitable; the emotions felt during that time were incredible.”



Jason Oleson
4L

NEXT ISSUE

Q

What has been your most satisfying moment as a legal professional, thus far?

Submit your response (no more than 75 words please) along with a portrait photo to diskouti@sjcl.edu. We’ll randomly select a few alumni responses each issue.

Out and About

Out and About celebrates the things that make your success worthwhile. Send us a picture of your vacation (with you in it), your new baby, a quick lunch with other alumni, your crazy new hobby, or even your wedding. Send to mcartier@sjcl.edu. Help us celebrate you!



Third-year law student **Leticia Guzman** gave birth to her son **Leo Alexander** August 21 at 6pm on the dot! Leticia has already returned to class. She is incredible, raising two daughters who are now 6 and 7, and creating baby Leo, all the while in law school. Congratulations Leticia!



Scott Jones (Law '07) and his wife, **Teresa Petty** (Law '07) took their tiny Smart Car cross country to see the amazing eclipse in a tiny little town called Andrews last summer. It was right on the centerline of totality and was renamed Totality Town for the event. This picture was taken on the way back in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Alumni Association Calendar of Events



2018

- OCTOBER 13..... Alumni Association Golf Tournament
- DECEMBER 13 Children's Holiday Party

2019

- JANUARY 5..... Got MCLE?
- QUARTERLY Student Appreciation Days
- SPRING TERM Bar Talk
- SPRING/SUMMER..... Alumni Night at the Grizzlies

Alumni Association Board positions will be available in January. Get involved! dskouti@sjcl.edu

Thank you for your support!

August 1, 2017 - July 31, 2018

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Brenda Hook ('06)
Robert Hurlbett ('90)
David Ibarra ('10) & Jennell Casillas
Ellen Jahn ('88)
Stefanie Krause (Faculty & '00)
Nichola Krebsbach ('16)
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If we have made an error, please contact Lonsetta Hightower at 559/323-2100 or lhightower@sjcl.edu.



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Linda Kelly ('86)
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Jo Ann Novoson & Carl Christensen
Shannon Pell ('06)
Pat Pinto ('94)
Mio Quatraro ('74)
Diane Skouti (Staff)
Margaret Smith
Sevag Tateosian ('08)
Jill Waller-Randles (Staff)

In-Kind-Gifts

Andreas Borgeas (Faculty)
James Kalomiris ('99)
George Perlingieri
Conlin Reis ('14)
Darin & Amy Rock
Philip Tavlian ('80)
Robert Wyrick ('08)

Steven E. Alfieris (Law '97) is now a Senior Associate at the Dias Law Firm, Inc. in Hanford.

Skye G. Emery (Law '16) is now a partner in the newly formed Aitchison & Emery, formerly the Law Office of Casey Aitchison (Law '89). The firm practices family law in Merced and Mariposa counties. Ms. Aitchison now resides in Catheys Valley, where she and her husband own and operate California's largest alpaca ranch.

Alfred A. Gallegos (Law '92) is now the Interim Team Leader for the Family/Immigration/Benefits Team at Central California Legal Services.

Kristina D. Garabedian (Law '14) is now in-house counsel for CSAA Insurance Group.

Rachelle M. Golden (Law '13) is now an Associate Attorney at Hatmaker Law Group.

Michael T. Haw (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney with the law firm of Yruegui & Roberts.

Maribel Hernandez (Law '04) is now Assistant General Counsel, Employment Law & Litigation at The SaveMart Companies.

David M. Lange (Law '11) is now an Associate Attorney at the Dias Law Firm, Inc. in Hanford.

Daniel A. Martin (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney at White Canepa, LLP.

James R. Mugridge (Law '13) is now a Trial Attorney with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunities Commission.

Randy J. Risner (Law '94) has been presented with the California Medal of Merit for his "exceptionally meritorious service while assigned as a Chief Judge Advocate of the Legal Support Command and as General Counsel to the Governor's Military Counsel." As per the award, Lieutenant Colonel "Risner's efforts as Chief Judge Advocate reflect great credit upon himself, the Legal Command Support, the California State Military Reserve, and the California National Guard."

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