



# Inter Alia

SAN JOAQUIN COLLEGE OF LAW • Volume 32, Issue 2

## Congratulations to the SJCL Class of 2021

The 33 graduates of San Joaquin College of Law enjoyed lots of Pomp and Circumstance, even though the circumstances were unusual.

BY **MISSY MCKAI CARTIER**, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

The grads were invited back to campus prior to the actual ceremony to be videotaped receiving their diplomas, being hooded, sometimes giving speeches, and being feted by friends and family, along with SJCL faculty and staff. The videos were played at the Zoom graduation, with Dean of Students Logan Tennerelli welcoming, congratulating, and thanking the grads for the pleasure of teaching them. Roughly 200 people attended the virtual ceremony, some as close as Clovis, others as far as the Philippines. The grads were also congratulated by Doug Noll, Chair of the SJCL Board of Trustees, who also expressed the wish of the Board that the grads study hard for the Bar. While graduation is always a time to look to the future, Dean Janice Pearson also used it as a chance to look back.

Dean Pearson reflected on graduation a decade ago, and where those grads are now. Among the ranks of the Class of 2011, she found “an Administrative Law Judge, a very well-regarded homicide prosecutor, a very successful business lawyer, a patent inspector who is in Washington, D.C...and more and more and more.” She added she is excited to see where the Class of 2021 finds itself ten years from now.

The Keynote Speaker, Academic Dean Justin Atkinson, also spoke about the past, about how he needed to pass the California Bar after beginning his legal career in Utah, and how he was referred to SJCL to join in a Bar study group. He says he could tell



(L-R) Dean **Jan Pearson**, Dean of Students **Logan Tennerelli**, and Academic Dean **Justin Atkinson** hosted two days of in-person ceremonies outside the SJCL campus.

those in the group were all SJCL grads who were friends, but they quickly accepted him. Among those in the group, Dean Atkinson found “an executive of a large ambulance company, a single mother of four children who decided to come to law school after her youngest started elementary school, a guy in his early 20’s who had worked picking fruit his whole life,” and the list went on. He added, “This was a type of diversity of experience I had never seen before. It wasn’t at my law school. I could tell then that SJCL was a special place, and its students were special, too.”

The graduates came bearing degrees from 18 different campuses, ranging from the University of Hawaii to the University of Pennsylvania and Brumel University West London. Closer to home, 19 graduates hold degrees from C.S.U. campuses while another six came representing the U.C. System, with campus experiences ranging from Berkeley and Davis to Merced and Santa Barbara.

Their backgrounds were equally diverse. They included Masters Degrees in Business Administration, Public Administration, and one in Intelligence & Security Studies.

# A Message From the Dean



Operating a law school with a sound legal education and diverse opportunities for students is complicated. The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting shutdowns did not make it easier, but SJCL and the students survived. In fact, at a crucial point in their lives, they rose to the occasion. 72% of the class of 2020 passed the October 2020 Bar on the first attempt. Grades in general were somewhat higher than normal and the same number advanced from the first to the second year.

Graduation for the class of 2021 was a combination of individual graduations in Memorial Park and a virtual celebration. The individual graduations, even with limited attendance permitted, were so well received by all involved, there is a groundswell of support for continuing them. The New American Legal Clinic continued to function, including Student Advocates, primarily remotely, by meeting clients by phone, Zoom, and at a table outside the northwest door of the building to sign documents.

SJCL transitioned very quickly to classes on Zoom. Thanks to Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) funds, the additional costs of equipment and technology to deliver those classes, as well as equipment for staff supporting classes and student attendance, were quickly purchased. Almost 75% of the CARES funds to date were used for direct grants to students for their technology needs and other aspects of their costs of attendance. Staff, faculty, and students overwhelmingly stayed well and no known case of COVID was contracted at the school.

The great majority of faculty and students are eager to return to in-person classes. We all miss students and the sense of community. SJCL is formulating alternative plans to make that a reality as much as will be permitted by State, County, CDC, and OSHA rules for the fall semester beginning in August.

SJCL's accreditation requirements continue unabated. An Interim Report due to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) on March 1, 2021, was submitted. This does not entail a physical site visit, but a discussion with a WASC team is scheduled for July 17, 2021, with a subsequent written WASC response. WASC's objective is to inspire schools to continuous improvement. The next full site visit is scheduled for spring of 2025.

SJCL will host a site visit by the Committee of Bar Examiners this October. This occurs every five years, usually as a 3–4-day onsite event. This year it will be entirely virtual but will still include classroom observations and visits with staff, faculty, students, and alumni. A report with a significant amount of data and supporting materials is due July 1, 2021.

Work on the site of the new Clovis Senior Center, Library, and Transportation Center continues, albeit with some construction delays. The expectation is that the work will be completed in late fall of 2022. SJCL then has some relatively minor renovations to make to the existing Senior Center. Hopefully, SJCL will open its new Library and classroom facility, the Darryl B. Freedman Law Library, by January of 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice Pearson". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Janice Pearson

Dean

San Joaquin College of Law

#### Editorial Staff

Janice Pearson  
Missy Mckai Cartier  
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Diane Skouti

#### Contributing Writers

Missy Mckai Cartier  
Megan Lerma  
Diane Skouti

#### Design & Production

Mark Enns

#### Photography

Missy Mckai Cartier  
Megan Lerma  
Kenny Gilman Photography  
Diane Skouti

#### Inter Alia Online

[sjcl.edu/interalia](http://sjcl.edu/interalia)

#### San Joaquin College of Law

Information: 559/323-2100

Alumni: 559/326-1463

Website: [sjcl.edu](http://sjcl.edu)

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# 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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# Diplomacy Among Kings, Goats, and Voodoo: One attorney's story

BY DIANE SKOUTI, ALUMNI LIAISON

Recent conversation with an SJCL alumnus: "...And what are you up to these days?"

"Me? Oh, I'm living in Benin (West Africa), working as Consul at the U.S. Embassy in Cotonou! And you?"

While it doesn't come up often when discussing the vast career options a J.D. provides, it turns out that the United States Foreign Service is quite popular among attorneys. For SJCL alumnus Phillip Walsky (Law '12) it is the perfect career fit.

"I think a background in law is practical for the foreign service due to the many rules and regulations involved in immigration law. A Consul officer assists American citizens abroad, does visa work, and interviews those who wish to travel to the United States. The visa system is quite robust and legal knowledge helps with that," Phillip said during a recent Zoom interview.

While Phillip says his role at the Embassy in Benin (pronounced ben-EEN)

does not include serving as an attorney, his background in law is quite helpful. "Attorneys have a great understanding of how to analyze and solve problems and work with people from all walks of life. The skills we develop in law school coincide with foreign service work," he says. In addition, interaction with people in foreign lands serves as an important form of micro diplomacy. "Our interactions are how we can show others the ideals and strengths of our culture. Assisting people one on one helps to develop positive views of the U.S."

Phillip says he feels privileged to represent the United States overseas. "My country has faith that I will represent the U.S. well and do a good job. I take that to heart."

And how, one must wonder, does a career path lead from SJCL in Clovis, to the Republic of Benin in West Africa?

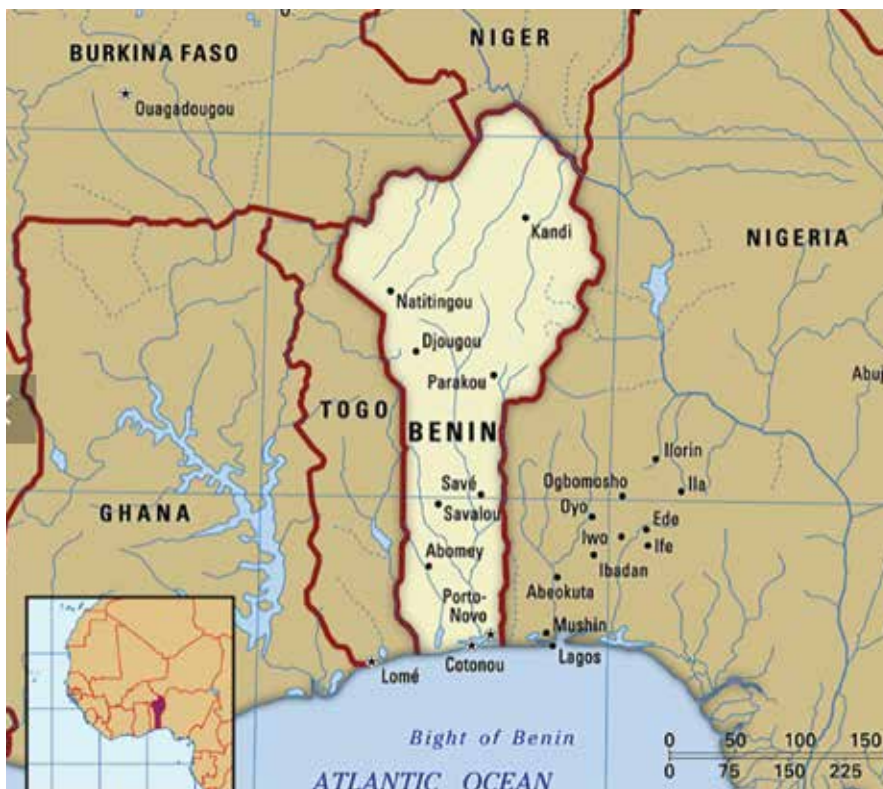
Having grown up in a military family, Phillip developed a love for travel, history, and cultural diversity early on. The

Foreign Service was always in the back of his mind, even after passing the bar and beginning his law career in 2012 at the firm (then) Emmerson Sorenson Church and Libke. While Phillip was in law school, the New American Legal Clinic (NALC) was created on campus. He was part of the original NALC team who worked at the Mexican consulate assisting with naturalizations. It was the appreciation shown by those seeking immigration assistance that inspired Phillip to want to be "that (helpful) person."

The Foreign Service, however, is not something one takes on casually. Applying to join is neither easy, nor quick. The application process can take a year or more and involves tests on things like general knowledge, social studies, constitution and government, history, and geography. The next round includes multiple essays, and finally an open interview that takes place in Washington, D.C. If selected at that point the clearance process begins and then the candidate is placed on a register from which the officers are chosen as needed. Most applicants don't make it on their first try, Phillip says.

"Foreign service officers are fascinating people. They are always very interesting and talented," he adds. Placement overseas depends upon one's training. The options include areas like medical, computer specialist, and general diplomacy, Phillip's area. The Benin assignment is Phillip's third overseas placement. He has also served in Seoul, South Korea; Doha, Qatar; and in Washington D.C. at the Foreign Service headquarters.

Part of the placement preparation includes training in languages and culture. For his Benin assignment Phillip learned French, the main language in Benin, in addition to some Fon, one of 50+ languages in the region. "Becoming a part of the city we are in is what is required (for success)," Phillip says. "You come in with the attitude that I am a part of this town, this is my home, and you begin to feel comfortable and at home."





**Phillip Walsky** (Law '12) with some Beninese children at the highest point in Benin, Mount Sokbaro

The life of a foreign diplomat, while fascinating, is not as cushy as one might think. “It’s a 24-hour-a-day job,” Phillip says. “We get calls from American citizens who are overseas needing help at all hours, and we work with local contacts to provide assistance.” Many travelers don’t even know help can be found at the Embassy until something bad happens to them. Lost passports, sickness, arrest, and even death are some of the issues where foreign service officers assist.

While there isn’t a lot of vacation tourism in Benin, there is a growing kind of tourism based on genealogy. Bordered by Togo to the west, Nigeria to the east, Burkina Faso to the north-west and Niger to the north-east, Benin is home to the infamous “Gate of No Return.” From the 17th century the region was known as the “Slave Coast” because of the vast number of Beninese people who were kidnapped and enslaved, and put on ships headed to the Americas. New DNA research now enables Americans to come here and find their ancestry.

Phillip says his various appointments in the Foreign Service provide invaluable op-

portunities to learn about such historically significant places, both for himself and his children. While living in Benin, Phillip’s children (ages eight and eleven and he has a new-born stateside) are gaining a diversity of experience that he hopes will help them to be good stewards as they grow. In spite of the vast differences of daily life in a developing country, the Walsky children catch lizards and play with their pet goat, like any kid living in the States. They also spend time at the beach and exploring cultural sites. While the schools in Cotonou are small and quite different than schools in the U.S., the kids are meeting and learning about children from all sorts of backgrounds and nationalities.

Noted as the birthplace of the Voodoo religion, places like the Python Temple in Ouidah are centers of Voodoo where one can learn about local culture and observe the festivals. Phillip says Embassy staff usually get holidays off for Voodoo, Christian, and Muslim holidays.

Having spent two years at each of his overseas assignments thus far, Phillip and his family will head for Trinidad & Tobago in the fall. He says he will miss the friendly

Beninese people, and also the amazing pineapples they grow, “Best pineapples I’ve ever had!”

Among some of his most interesting experiences, Phillip says having the privilege of interviewing several kings (some regions and ethnic groups in Benin have official kings who act mostly in ceremonial roles but do often help resolve local disputes or questions), for visas to travel to the U.S.

At some point, should he decide to stay stateside, Phillip knows he can always return to the practice of law, which makes for a terrific Plan B. Just another reason a lot of attorneys find working in the Foreign Service so attractive. Phillip says he often hears from fellow classmates who are interested in the Foreign Service. “It’s a stringent application, highly competitive, and not everyone who is selected receives placement,” he says. But the testing process is free, and a person can keep trying every year if they wish! It is a highly rewarding career and a great way to serve our country. You can find information on the Foreign Service at: <https://careers.state.gov/work/foreign-service/officer/>.









## Graduation FROM PAGE 1

There's an even wider range among the Bachelor's Degrees, from Political Science, English, and Criminology to Philosophy, Biology, Art History, Human Anatomy/Physiology, Communications, Social & Behavioral Sciences, and Genetics.

Valedictorian Travis Tubandt noted the different backgrounds and goals of the graduates, but maintained the Class of 2021 stands united in at least one area: "In achieving where others gave up, and we continued."

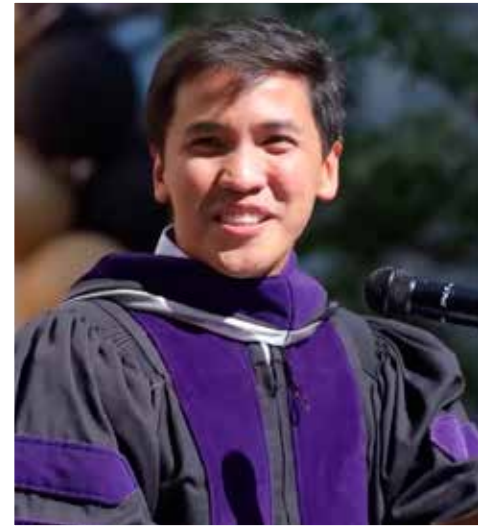
Among those honored was Mario Mella, a graduate of Temple University, who won the Loomis Legacy Medal of Distinction. The award came almost a year to the day after the passing of SJCL Founder John Loomis and is awarded to the graduate with the highest ethics, civility, and professionalism. Mario thanked this family. "You are my everything to me."

And speaking of family, Rodney Opetai'a Tuisavalalo had family members fly in from Hawaii, Chicago, Minnesota, and Vegas for his hooding. A portion of his graduation speech was in Samoan, but the tears in his eyes said it all.

Meanwhile, graduate Nathan Martin thanked his wife for her support during his law school journey, one that included the birth of their two sons. The oldest son had to be carried during the first few steps of Nathan's procession to hooding, refusing to let go of his dad.

The thank-yous went far beyond immediate family: Dustin Gallegos thanked his cats for meowing words of encouragement outside his door, Nicolas Mancillas thanked his grandma for keeping him fed during long study sessions, Samantha Williamson thanked her "village," and Danielle Patch thanked attorney Pahoua Lor (Law '08) for teaching her that "Mommy lawyers can do anything."

Nathan Avery's thank-you list included well over a dozen people. At the end, he simply said "You all truly saved my life. I can never repay you."



See all the graduation photos on the San Joaquin College of Law Facebook page





# Congratulations Class of 2021

## Valedictorian with Honors

Travis J. Tubandt

## Honors

Clare Elise Demera

Jaymie Alyse Eaton

Joslyn Nicole Hillberg

## Distinction

Fernando Miguel Garcia

George Irven Harris, Jr.

Innessa Yenokian

Nathan Ray Avery

Ashley Nicole Emmersen

Vanessa Marie Freitas

Dustin Van Gallegos

Jenna Lis Halop

Jessica Jaramillo Perez

Rajveer Kaur

Alexandra Marie Macedo

Raul Magana

Nicolas Alberto Mancillas

Nathan J. Martin

Mario Mella

Dustin Joel Moses

Dusty Burdick Nunes

Frankie Christopher Olivares III

Danielle Elizabeth Patch

Aimee Nicole Perez

David Nathaniel Piercy

Taylor Daye Pittman

Sean Brandon Quint

Rebecca Alexandra Salgado

Kelsey Teryn Schulteis

Jordan Scott Scrivner

Rodney Opeteia Tuisavalalo

Samantha Harrah Williamson





# SJCL Toasts Bar Passers

SJCL Congratulates February Bar Passers: Roxanna F. Alchian, Rachel Baskin, Jordan A. Bennett, Monique C. Galvan, Leticia Guzman, Michelle M. Mora, Cassandra K. Sheanh, and Katherine A. Villegas



Honorable **Robert Oliver** (bottom row, far right) was among those offering congratulations to the SJCL February Bar Passers.



**Monique Galvan**, after her swearing-in at the Superior Court of Kern County, with her daughter cheering for her.

**N**ot everyone passes on the first try. San Joaquin College of Law Alumna Monique Galvan remembers the angst of that previous failure, which was only compounded by a note her unusually empathic daughter had written. In it, the now-seven-year-old told her Mom “I’m so sorry you didn’t pass” and went on to reassure her she would in the future.

Monique told those gathered for the SJCL Virtual Toast on May 17th she couldn’t have her daughter writing another note like that. She took the Bar again, this time remotely, which she believes gave her “home field advantage.” And so it was that Monique was among the eight San Joaquin College of Law Alumni saluted for passing the February Bar.

She added she’s interested in Family Law, but hasn’t decided where she wants to land yet, because so many doors are opening for her. Monique lives in Bakersfield and commuted to law school with another SJCL Alumni.

SJCL Trustees Kevin Hanson and Hon Robert Oliver (Ret.) were among those raising a glass. Judge Oliver recalled it was 1973, the day after Thanksgiving, when he felt the same joy and relief at learning he passed the bar. “You will have a great, great life,” he said.



# SJCL Spring Scholarship Brunch Bunch

San Joaquin College of Law would like to express the deepest appreciation for those behind the 45 scholarships that were awarded at the Barristers' Brunch on March 27th.



Nearly a hundred sponsors, students, faculty, staff, family, and friends lit up the screen as their faces lit up with joy. Many raised an SJCL mug to toast the winners. The mugs were part of a special package complete with gourmet pancake mix, which was lovingly compiled by the Student Bar Association in celebration of the students' accomplishments.

Gratitude gushed from the screen, with comments like "Thank you to the Garabedian Family, my SJCL family, and the rest of our Veterans of SJCL," "I wanted to say THANK YOU SO MUCH for your generosity and this honor :) I am looking forward to another successful year," "Thank you so much, very thankful," "Thanks DTP," and "Thank you Farbers for creating this scholarship!"

## 2020-2021 Students of the Year

First Year . . . . . Ann-Marie Padilla  
 Second Year . . . . . Diana Malcolm  
 Third Year. . . . . Lorena Vargas and Jacobo Montejano  
 Fourth Year . . . . . Anonymous and Kelsey Schulteis

## 2019-2020 Students of the Year

First Year . . . . . Brittany Hieng  
 Second Year . . . . . Allison Rodriguez  
 Third Year. . . . . Dustin Gallegos and Dustin Moses  
 Fourth Year . . . . . Daniel Cisneros and Angad Puniani

## 2020-2021 Professors of the Year

Full-time Faculty . . . . . Logan Tennerelli  
 Adjunct Faculty . . . . . Jodie Howard

## 2019-2020 Professors of the Year

Full-time Faculty . . . . . Christine Goodrich  
 Adjunct Faculty . . . . . Phillip Cherney

## 2020-2021 Volunteer of the Year

NALC Pro Bono . . . . . Mario Mella









**Maribel Hernandez** (Law '04)  
Corporate Counsel Employment  
Law (North America)  
Maxim Integrated Products



**David Ibarra** (Law '10)  
The Law Offices of  
Goldberg & Ibarra



**Alexia Kirkland** (Law '10)  
Kirkland Law of California



**Hon. Ricky Tripp** (Law '01)  
Tulare Superior Court Judge

# “Justice at Our Core”

BY **DIANE SKOUTI**, ALUMNI LIAISON

With the glow of celebrations for the SJCL Class of 2021 (having been creatively hooded and diplomaed) still fresh in mind, thoughts turn naturally to the wide world of career opportunities awaiting the newly minted graduates once they pass the California Bar. Just how wide is that world of opportunity, one might ask?

How about Corporate Counsel on Employment Law for the North American Division of a semi-conductor producing company, for one? That’s what alumna Maribel Hernandez (Law '04) does for Maxim Integrated Products, San Francisco Bay Area. Or fulfilling a need to help “even the playing field due to changes in the state justice system” by becoming a Superior Court Judge in Tulare County, like Ricky Tripp (Law '01).

Maribel and Judge Tripp joined fellow alumni David Ibarra and Alexia Kirkland for a recent Alumni Career Panel Forum, to share their experiences post law school. For each, a devotion to doing the right thing and desire to ensure justice has been the driving force behind their success.

For Maribel, a love for law came after studying business and working for a time for Gap, Inc. Her calling to law school was strengthened during an undergrad class in HR with a teacher who was an attorney. “I realized how there had to be an exception to laws that didn’t fit (every) situation,” Maribel recounted. It was the injustice she found in sentencing and a lack of consideration for circumstance that clinched her decision on law school. That, and the availability of night classes so she could keep her day job.

A desire to become a corporate, in-house counsel led Maribel to collect 12-years’ worth of litigation experience at Maxim, a company that creates semi-conductors (semi-conductor: physical substance that is designed to manage and control the flow of current in electronic devices and equipment, allows neither a freely flowing electric current nor repels it completely, commonly used in the development of electronic chips, comput-

ing components and devices, integrated circuits, diodes and transistors) in San Jose. This eventually led to her current position. As corporate counsel, Maribel handles all the USA and Canada for the company and supports global contracts. She credits a camaraderie among the students of SJCL and a spirit of having “justice at our core” as the binding secret sauce that runs throughout our alumni.

It was a teacher in high school who pointed David Ibarra (Law '10), Law Offices of Goldberg & Ibarra, in the direction of law. In addition to discovering a passion for debate, David also had personal reasons for seeking justice. His father, who spoke no English, had been injured multiple times while on the job. David watched him go through a lot of suffering and injustice due to a lack of support or assistance with his case. David says he never thought he would practice workers comp law permanently, but after working with a client who was in a situation like his father’s, he realized it was his passion. “It’s not considered the most exciting area of law,” David admits, “but I love it enough to stay with it for the rest of my career.”

Alexia Kirkland (Law '10), Kirkland Law of California, is a solo practitioner who handles Civil Litigation, Workers Compensation and Immigration Law. Alexia didn’t fit any “traditional mold” of law student when she began law school. She was a single mom who had majored in Business Legal Environment and Economics and worked for the State for several years in Workers Compensation. At some point she realized she was tired of doing all the hard work behind scenes, and then watching as attorneys went to trial, using her work, to make appeals on behalf of clients. She wanted to do that too. With a need for a law school that understood family as a priority and valued life experience, she found SJCL, and had two more children in the process! She began her career as an attorney in a Workers Compensation firm but eventually decided she would rather control her own schedule and workload. Having come originally from a “very poor



# First Year Hurdle Morphs Like a Mosh Pit

Law school is like standing in the crowd at a punk rock concert for the first time.

BY LISA TALLEY, 2L

The first time I climbed my way onto the floor (aka the space in front of the stage that does not have chairs), I had no idea what was coming. The lights go out, music ruptures through the speakers, and excitement explodes through the crowd. But I can't focus on the stage because suddenly, I feel like I'm being crushed to death. I can't breathe.

The weight of the entire crowd rushed towards the front of the stage, where I was standing, hoping to get closer to the band. Everyone was pushing on the person in front of them. In a panic, I pushed back – using my feeble arms to shove everyone off of me. It didn't work. In fact, the more I fought, the more frustrated and tired I became. It was like a single drop of water trying to fight the swelling wave of the ocean.

Exhausted, I stopped fighting it, thinking to myself, “so, this is how it ends.” But a beautiful thing happened next, instead. The crowd was so tightly wedged together that when I put my arms down, I had to rest them on the shoulders of those on the right and left of me. We were connected in a way that when the crowd moved, we swayed together – effortlessly. There was no crushing weight, no one squeezing the life out of me. I could breathe again.



I didn't know it, but I had been fighting the natural order of things, and it was preventing me from enjoying the show. The key was that I needed to trust in my environment.

I walked into my first year of law school bright-eyed and eager, with only an inkling of what to expect. From the outset, law school continued to rain down upon me a shattering of those expectations, and in more instances than I care to count, I thought I couldn't breathe. Too many times I spent staring at my books, frustrated and convinced that the staggering pages of assigned reading, the memorization, and the demand to grasp complex principles in such a short time frame were impossible. But I only had to look up from that narrow view – to stop focusing on my discomfort,

and lean into the law school experience to realize it was absolutely possible.

Like the quintessential punk crowd, I had to put a fair amount of trust in my new environment. To trust that the professors would never give students more work than they can actually handle (despite what it often feels like). To trust that they give us just the right amount of hardship to help push us into the next evolution of ourselves. And most importantly, to trust in myself that I am capable.

So, much like the end of that punk show, I leave behind my first year of law school a little dazed, my adrenaline spent, somewhat in awe that I survived, and excited for the next one. Here's to (successfully) rolling with the punches in the 2L year.

and dangerous neighborhood,” Alexia was aware of the socio-economic disadvantages people suffered. “Injustice happens all the time in those neighborhoods,” Alexia said. “I wanted to lend my voice to those who deal with the injustice along with normal everyday things. I wanted to give the power to the communities I came from.”

Newly sworn Tulare County Superior Court Judge Ricky Tripp (Law '01) says he is still waiting for a phone call telling him they made a mistake, and he really wasn't appointed to the bench! Even judges, he says, can suffer from self-inflicted doubts

like imposter syndrome. But he's definitely no imposter. As a high school wrestler who studied political science as an undergrad, Judge Tripp always had an innate sense for fairness. After law school he worked in both criminal defense and civil law, but eventually settled on prosecution where he served for 13 years. “I learned a lot” during that time, he says. “Changes in the State justice system made me feel that things were not on an even playing field.” When a bench position opened up, which hadn't happened in Tulare County for some 25 years, he jumped on the application. Judge

Tripp says the timing was perfect for his appointment due to his intense interest in the revamping of the criminal justice system. “It's a wonderful job,” he says.

Having prosecuted many homicide cases while a prosecutor, Judge Tripp says it is always about doing the right thing. This includes instances where a member of the prosecution team brought up questions about a suspect's guilt. If research finds the evidence is not there, the case must be dismissed. “It's not always a victory or a win. It's about doing the right thing and standing up for everyone's rights.”

# SJCL ON THE MOVE



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

**Aaron J. Aguirre** (Law '09) is now an Associate Attorney at Borton Petrini LLP.

**Osmundo J. Arguello** (Law '18) is now an Associate Attorney at Michael & Associates in Thousand Oaks, CA.

**Jaskarn "Jesse" Atwal** (Law '06) has opened the Law Firm of Atwal & Company in Sacramento, CA.

**Richard H. Bambl** (Law '05) has opened the Law Offices of Bambl & Associates in Visalia.

**Harpavin Singh Brar** (Law '09) is now an attorney for the Social Security Administration in Richmond, CA.

**Pauline E. Brickey** (Law '10) is now a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Fresno.

**Darcy L. Brown** (Law '18) is now an Adjunct Professor at Reedley College, in addition to her job as an attorney for Sierra Foothill Conservancy, a non-profit land trust based out of Mariposa.

**Jennifer L. Byers-Lawton** (Law '09) is now a Partner at Lerandeau & Lerandeau, LLP.

**Gabriel A. Delgado** (Law '13) is now an Associate Attorney at Baker Manock & Jensen.

**Jennifer Lemus-Fernandez** (Law '20) is now an Associate Attorney at the Yarra Law Group.

**Prince S. Girn** (Law '16) is now an Attorney at Twohy, Darneille & Frye in Sacramento.

**Juliana F. Gmur** (Law '93) is now Senior Commission Counsel for the Commission on State Mandates in Sacramento.

**Vismaad Gondara** (Law '18) has joined Goyette & Associates and is now responsible for the firm's Fresno office, representing Public Safety and Public Sector employees in the Central Valley.

**Carey L. Haydon** (Law '15) has opened the firm of Haydon Law.

**Michael A. Kerr** (Law '17) is now an EEO Investigator for U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Protection.

**Lisa M. Madden** (Law '09) is now an Associate Attorney at Parker, Kern, Nard & Wenzel, where her primary focus is workers' compensation defense.

**Rachel Gonzalez Mahoney** (Law '11) is now a named partner in the Law Firm of Cole Fisher Cole O'Keefe & Mahoney.

**Dennis A. Mederos** (Law '77) has been selected to serve as the Mayor of the City of Tulare. Two years ago, he was elected to the Tulare City Council.

**Michelle M. Mora** (Law '18) is now an Attorney at Andrew B. Jones PC.

**Anthony J. Muia** (Law '20) has opened the practice Anthony Muia Attorney at Law.

**Ramon Nava** (Law '14) is now an Associate Attorney at The Matian Firm, APC.

**Jordan Ott** (Law '19) is now an Associate Attorney at Laughlin, Falbo, Levy & Moresi, LLP.

**Elliot J. Pease** (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney at CBE Law Group in Long Beach, where he specializes in workers' compensation insurance defense.

**Nellie M. Peloian** (Law '15) is now an attorney for the Department of Child Support Services in Fresno.

**Kelsey A. Seib** (Law '18) is now a Staff Attorney at Michael H. Meyer Chapter 13 Trustee.

**Hon. Alan M. Simpson, Ret.** (Law '83) has entered into a partnership with Ericksen Arbuthnot as a Mediator. Judge Simpson began his career as a Deputy District Attorney, and then moved on to Partner in a Fresno law firm before being appointed to the Fresno Superior Court in 2000 and becoming Presiding Judge in 2018. He retired from the Bench earlier this year.

**Sara E. Tarasevic** (Law '19) is now an associate attorney with Parker, Kern, Nard & Wenzel.

**Sarah "Nicole" Tucker** (Law '20) is now an Associate Attorney at the DeMaria Law Firm.

**Lisa M. Urrizola** (Law '86) is now a Fresno County Deputy District Attorney.

**Phillip J. Walsky** (Law '12) now U.S. Consul in the Republic of Benin at U.S. Embassy Cotonou.

**April Woods** (Law '13) is now an Attorney at The Zenith Insurance Company.



# Thank you for your support

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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Yolanda Serna  
Arturo Vargas

### Other

Victoria Denny (Staff)  
Joby Dupuis ('85)  
Raymond Isleib ('08)  
Jared Nelson (Staff)

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.



## 5 New Scholarships

Students entering San Joaquin College of Law through the Law Pathways Program at Bullard High School, Fresno City College, and Fresno State who are California LAW Scholars are eligible to apply for the Law Pathway \$1,000 Tuition Reduction Scholarship.

California LAW is an educational pipeline created by the California State Bar's Council on Access and Fairness aimed at diversifying the legal profession in California to better reflect the population of the state. More information is available at Law Pathway Scholarship (sjcl.edu).

Other new scholarships this year include:

- First Generation Student Scholarship – \$2,500
- Notorious RBG Scholarship – \$1,000
- Trudi Gale Manfredo Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000
- Kristina Zarate Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000

Each year, SJCL offers about 40 scholarships which are exclusive to its students.

## *In Memoriam*

*San Joaquin College of Law notes with sadness the passing of*

**James L. Miller** (Law '07) on May 26, 2021. His contributions to SJCL include work on Hopper Moot Court and service as a Board Member for the Alumni Association.

**Debra A. Mosley** (Law '00) on May 20, 2021. Prior to her retirement a couple years ago, she was a partner at Bradford and Barthel. She is survived by her stepfather, sister, two brothers, an aunt, and numerous cousins.

**Beverly F. Siering-Wedderburn** (Law '94) on April 14, 2021.

She is survived by her husband, three sisters, and numerous nieces and nephews.

**George J. Vasquez** (Law '13) on March 26, 2021, at the age of 36. He was an SJCL Adjunct Faculty member and also a member of the team of three students who won the Law School's first Roger J. Traynor Trophy in 2013.

He is survived by his wife, Caroline, his parents, his sister, brother-in-law, two nephews, and a niece.



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More Information  
**Joyce Morodomi**  
at [jmorodomi@sjcl.edu](mailto:jmorodomi@sjcl.edu).

The SJCL Alumni Association presents

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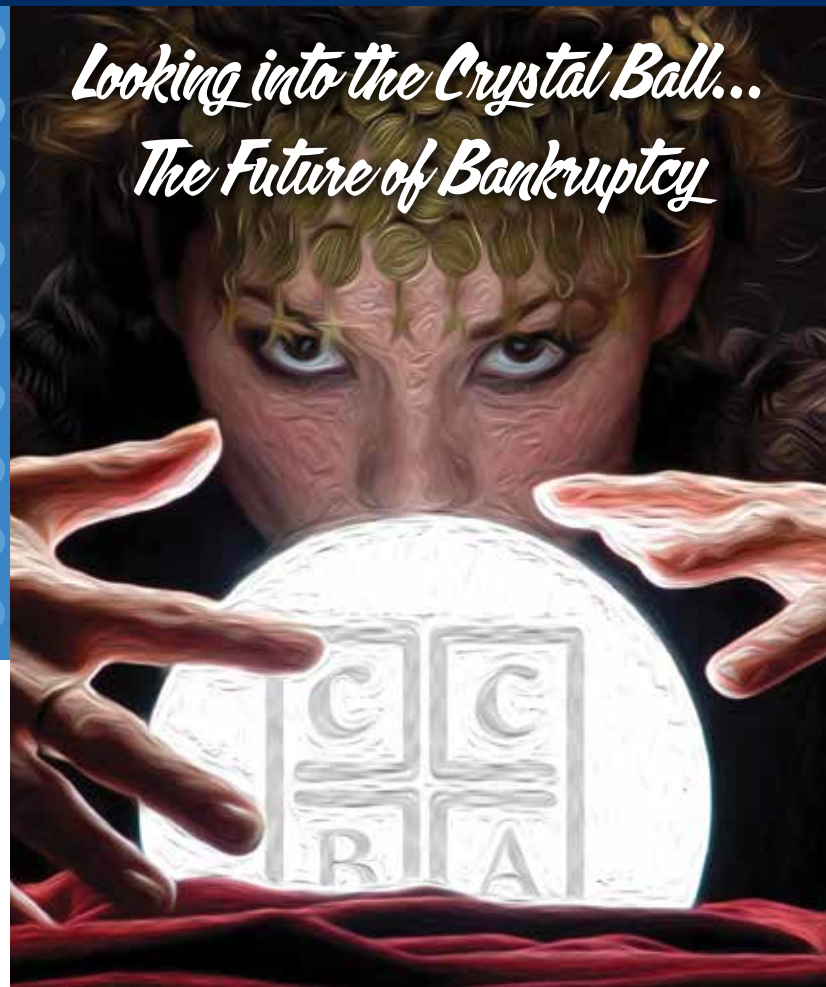
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A virtual presentation providing three hours of MCLE credit. Registration information will be posted soon on the [sjcl.edu](http://sjcl.edu) website and social media.

Please direct any questions to  
**Stefanie** at: **559-355-3256**

or e-mail: [sjclalumniassociation@gmail.com](mailto:sjclalumniassociation@gmail.com)

## *Looking into the Crystal Ball... The Future of Bankruptcy*



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