



Resume Exchange Reflects Attorney Shortage

Ten different law firms and another ten agencies participated in the first-ever San Joaquin College of Law Career Day/Resume Exchange on October 21st.

They came toting everything from logoed pens and Purell bottles to donuts and stuffed police dogs, but the biggest showstopper of all was the juggernaut of jobs. There were far more jobs than potential applicants, with most of the 20 firms and agencies offering more than just one opening.

There was at least one happy ending; a 4-L student was hired on the spot and the firm says it is considering two others as well. Another firm said they already have three SJCL alumni but are looking for others because “they know what they’re doing and need very little training.” Others pointed to the SJCL alumni Valley ties, meaning most would be staying, as opposed to job-hopping to another city.



ABC's Channel 30, **Corin Hoggard** interviews students at the resume exchange

WE WISH YOU A JOYOUS

Holiday Season

& HAPPY NEW YEAR

on behalf of myself, the Board of Trustees,
the Faculty, the Staff, & the Students

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Contents



Features

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------|------------------|
| 4 | 65th Bench Officer | 11 | Hanson Awards |
| 6 | Swearing In | 12 | BREN Clinic |
| 8 | On Campus Interviews | 14 | SJCL on the Move |
| 10 | NALC | 15 | Giving Back |

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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Hon. Amy Freeman Becomes 65th SJCL Bench Officer

The path to the Bench was one filled with careful consideration.



Amy Freeman says “I am a faithful person. I have faith I’ll be where I’m supposed to be.” And so, from her position as a Fresno County Deputy District Attorney, she says she began applying for appointment as a Fresno County Court Commissioner two years ago, waiting for the call. It didn’t seem like an imperative at the time, as she explains “I just thought I would open the door so if I was meant to walk through it, I would.” The call came October 18th; she was seated November 7th.

Judge Freeman doesn’t see the move as a major shift, as much as she sees it as a major expansion. The 2003 SJCL Alumna says “I have more to offer our community than just helping crime victims. I want to help a variety of people, everything from Crim Law to Family Law, Traffic Court...”

Yes, she is especially looking forward to Traffic Court. “Everybody goes there, rich, poor,” and, as she has said, she is looking forward to serving the entire community.

The Hon. Amy Freeman becomes the eleventh SJCL Alumni Court Commissioner, and SJCL’s 65th bench officer.

Resume Exchange FROM PAGE 1

Despite the seriousness of the prospective employers, there was an air of levity. With more than two dozen SJCL alumni represented among the 20 firms and agencies in attendance, it was like a reunion for some. Others joked if the shortage of prospects got any worse, they might start stealing the attorneys from the other tables representing potential employers.

The shortage of attorneys in the Valley is becoming so pronounced that Corin Hoggard from KFSN/Channel 30 came to the event with a camera crew to do a story. Aside from reporting on the plentiful legal jobs with few candidates, his story posed a worrisome question: What happens to our justice system when both the District Attorney’s Office and that of the Public Defender are short-staffed?



Tulare County District Attorney’s Office (L-R) Ryan Petty (Law ’16), Allison Rodriguez-Hidalgo (Law ’22), Candice Moore (Law ’13), and Public Information Officer Stuart Anderson



Central California Legal Services (L-R) Human Resources Manager **Jonathan Ota**, Pro Bono Program Registered Legal Services Attorney **Montez Brooks**, and Pro Bono Program Paralegal **Franchesca Garcia**



Attendee from Southern California **Kim Bensen** with Allstate Insurance and **Maria Hoover** (Law '07) from Kings County Minors Advocates Office in Hanford.



Fitzgerald, Alvarez and Ciummo (L-R) **Greg Gross** (Law '99) and **Emily Takao** (Law '09)



Department of Industrial Relations, State of California (L-R) **Scott Jones** (Law '07) and **Patrick McManaman** (Law '07)

Thank you

FOR YOUR SUPPORT & FAITH
IN SJCL GRADUATES!

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& Rodriguez, LLC**

**Tulare County
District Attorney's Office**

**Tulare County
Public Defender's Office**

Yruegui & Roberts



An Oath and a Toast: Welcome new attorneys!



Federal Magistrate Judge **Erica Grosjean** administers the oath to July 2022 Bar Passers.

Not only were the soon-to-be-admitted attorneys unwilling to forfeit a month of the raise they expected as they moved up from clerking positions, but many of their employers wanted the attorneys on the job and in court ASAP.

Through some highly creative scrambling, San Joaquin College of Law managed to pull together a combo Bar Admissions and Champagne toast, thanks in no small part to the never-ending support of Federal Magistrate Judge Erica Grosjean, who led the ceremony on November 18th, just eight days after bar results were released. She welcomed them to their new futures, pausing to acknowledge many she knew from the classes she teaches at SJCL.

The event was open to all bar passers in the Valley, along with the 20 from SJCL.

The U. S. District Court was among the winners in this scramble for attorneys; both Janelle Di Mino and Rosa Oregel Gonzalez accepted positions there. Meanwhile, Jessica Gonzalez becomes a Deputy Attorney General, Sylvia Luna is now a Deputy Fresno City Attorney, and Aosam Saleh takes a position as a Fresno County Deputy District Attorney.

Some of the newly minted attorneys head to private practice, like Paul Armo who was hired by the Law Office of Lance Armo. Lance is Paul's father and a 1995 SJCL grad. Landon Sciacca, meanwhile, was one of many bar passers who had "you pass, you're hired" offers in hand, so he will continue his work at Proper Legal Defense as an attorney rather than law clerk. Others, like Ryan Heller, do not yet have a job as an attorney. But does he have offers? Yes. Five.

San Joaquin College of Law would like to thank everyone who helped make this quick turnaround a happy success, including Fresno County Bar Association President Cristina Jelladian-Buchner and Executive Director Anita Martinez who handed out FCBA applications (including that free first year membership) and the Fresno County Young Lawyers Association, who handed out cookies and cheer.

And speaking of cheer, it is a genuine honor to share in the joy felt at this event!



Abigail Unruh



Miriam Ochoa and Gloria Toledo-Pulido



Dear Alumni: With Love

To start 2023 off on a fabulous note, we will recognize and honor our alumni by designating January “Alumni Appreciation Month!” We are so very thankful to each of you for carrying forward the legacy of your alma mater with superior professional skill, in addition to the many ways you support the growth of San Joaquin College of Law.

The stories of inspiration involving our graduates are undoubtedly countless. We know that many of you have changed the trajectory of the lives of those you encouraged to follow in your footsteps, enroll in law school, and become successful members of the legal community. We want to share these stories!

Over the course of the next year, San Joaquin College of Law plans to spotlight alumni in the following categories:

Inspiring Students to the Legal

Profession – spotlights an alum who sees the great potential in others and inspires them to enroll in SJCL

Distinguished Early Career - spotlights an alum who has brought honor and distinction to themselves and SJCL within the first 10 years of their career

Community Service Spotlight – spotlights an alum recognized for Pro Bono work and/or service to the community

Career Champion Spotlight – spotlights an alum who is known to mentor or employ a large number of SJCL graduates

We need your help to uncover these gems.

Please send recommendations of individuals who are deserving of being highlighted in one of these categories, or of your own story of inspiration. Were you encouraged by an SJCL graduate before you? Have you had an impact on someone who went on to join the legal profession?

We look forward to sharing the many ways the SJCL network is enhancing the legal community, while helping to elevate the lives of your fellow and future alumni.

Please email: dskouti@sjcl.edu with your stories, recommendations, and comments.

Cheers to our alumni!



SJCL students take part in the traditional staircase shot for Bar Passers. (L-R) BACK ROW (L-R) Gloria Toledo Pulido, Andres Santiago Benitez, William Klomhaus, Aosam Saleh, and Willie Barrera. MIDDLE ROW (L-R) Jesica Gonzalez, Sylvia Luna, Heather Thomas, and Abigail Unruh. FRONT ROW (L-R) Paul Armo, Janelle Di Mino, Nancy Leon, Rosa Oregel-Gonzalez, and Ryan Heller. ALSO PASSING BUT NOT PICTURED: Besan Farra, Chloe Fernandes, Matthew Hamilton, Austin Insko, Leonardo Piceno, and Landon Sciacca.



William Klomhaus and his wife



Nancy Leon with her husband & baby

On Campus Interviews

About two dozen SJCL students lined up for one-on-one interviews during On Campus Interviews on October 28th. We asked potential employers what they were seeking in prospective Law Clerks.



Fitzgerald Alvarez & Ciummo

(L-R): **Richard Ciummo**, **Emily Takao** (Law '09) and Chief Defense Attorney **Greg Gross** (Law '99)

▶ WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

"Applicants interested in litigation, applicants with research skills." – Richard Ciummo



Abrams Law Group

Bob Abrams (Law '08) and Senior Paralegal **Linette Crawford**

▶ WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

"Potential Associate or Law Clerk who knows what they're doing, is a self-starter, and fits in with our office culture" – Bob Abrams



Madera District Attorney's Office

Deputy District Attorney **Nick Karp** and Supervising D.A. **Brooke Bergman** (Law '05).

▶ WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

"People not trying to do just a nine-to-five, but who are willing to put in the work because they are passionate about justice." – Nick Karp



Fresno Public Defender's Office

Chief Defense Attorney **David Munoz** and Deputy Public Defender **Rebekah Berg**.

▶ WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

"Applicants who want to make a significant impact in people's lives." – David Munoz



Fresno District Attorney's Office

(L-R): Assistant District Attorney **Traci Fritzier** (Law '97), Misdemeanor Unit Chief **Nathan Lambert**, and Deputy District Attorney **Kelsey Peterson**.

▶ WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

"Someone who is committed, dedicated, and has a passion for working with victims." – Traci Fritzier

Veteran-Grad to Veteran-Grad

Raul Magana (Law '21) also took the attorney's oath recently, with a special officiant in fellow Military Veteran, SJCL Grad, and Superior Court Judge Brian Alvarez (Law '95). But Raul's pathway to the bar is anything but typical. A Veteran of the U.S. Marines, Raul returned from his tour of duty (which included a combat deployment to Iraq) and attended both Fresno City College and the Police Academy, and worked as a police officer while earning a Criminology degree at Fresno State.

His interest in law was sparked by watching attorneys help immigrants, like his parents, become legal residents, and the huge positive impact that had on their lives. Upon enrolling in law school Raul was selected as a Government Information Specialist in charge of the local Privacy program and Freedom of Information Act, office. In addition to his law studies, Raul completed an internship with the office of Mr. Miles Harris, and started up a business of his own, on the side.

"Marine and Co. Logistics," Raul's business, is an Amazon Delivery Service Provider that grew throughout his time in law school. Having graduated only a year ago, Raul now has 45 full-time employees.

Raul says the knowledge and legal training he received in law school was a tremendous help as he formed his company, and that his knowledge of business organizations and contracts helps him with day-to-day operations. While Raul says his current focus is getting the business to run as smoothly as possible, he plans to venture out and practice law at some point too!



Pie Before Finals Day!

Pie, pie, and more pie was on offer alongside a pot of hot spiced cider and some pretty gnarly coffee in the main hallway the week before Thanksgiving. Presented by the SJCL Alumni Association, the annual indulgence is meant to herald in the holiday season, provide sustenance to beleaguered law students, and soothe frazzled nerves before finals. To the Alumni Association, we're pretty sure we can speak for the students, faculty and staff in saying: Thank You!



Bobcat City, aka NALC, Generates Success

Linda Barreto (Law '08), Jessica Jaramillo Perez (Law '14) and Alejandra Tenorio Zurita (3L) all knew at a young age that they wanted to become lawyers. That desire, along with their shared alma maters of UC Merced and SJCL, brought them together as a formidable team advocating for immigrants in the Central Valley.



(L-R) **Alejandra Tenorio Zurita**, **Linda Barreto** (Law '14) and **Jessica Jaramillo Perez** (Law '21) are part of the team at the New American Legal Clinic.



BY **JUAN FLORES**
PUBLIC INFORMATION
OFFICER, UC MERCED

All three women are Latina, Valley natives and working in the field of immigration law. Each are part of the powerhouse they lovingly refer to as Bobcat (the UC Merced mascot) City, aka the New American Legal Clinic at SJCL. With Barreto serving as Executive Director of the clinic and law professor, Perez is a staff attorney who started out as a volunteer, and Zurita is a third-year law student and research assistant.

In order to get a glimpse of the personal passion that drives each of these professionals, one must make stops in cities along Highway 99. All three agree that their experiences at home and school instilled in them the discipline and hunger to fight for what is right and defend those who are unable to defend themselves.

Barreto was born and raised in Fresno. In 2005, she joined the inaugural class at UC Merced, where three years later she received a degree in psychology. "We were pioneers. I loved the opportunity to open a new campus," she said. "I never thought I would have the chance to go to a UC so

close to home and receive a prestigious education."

People told Barreto she wanted to be a lawyer because as a child she liked to argue. Chuckling, she said it's been more about proving a point and doing what is right. That sentiment was in full drive when she received a citation for making a left-hand turn on campus. Barreto went to traffic court, diagrammed the entire incident, and successfully fought the ticket. Prior to this, she had thought twice about attending law school after her time at UC Merced, but she realized there was no turning back.

"I was like, 'OK, I'm doing this,'" she recounted. "It's a calling. Even if Latinas don't normally have a seat at the table, I was prepared to have a seat at the table because of my education," Barreto said. "UC Merced didn't teach me law, but it instilled discipline, rigor and wanting to achieve academic excellence, which is what you need in law school."

Perez was born in Merced and raised a few miles away in Winton. She majored in political science with a minor in Spanish. As a member of the Associated Students there, she studied bylaws and even discovered a grant for undergraduate students that had not been used for some time.

Out of everything she encountered at the university, Perez said it was the different kinds of people that allowed her to grow. "I had moments where I could vividly recall where I was sitting in class and thought, 'Wow, am I lucky to be here,'" she said.

Out of all the support Perez found, it was a chance meeting with Barreto that filled a void she longed to fill. "I took Professor Barreto's class at SJCL and instantly felt I could relate to her. I had never had this before. It's hard to find this as a Latina. Finding a female attorney mentor was a big reason why I applied to work here at the clinic."

SJCL Sweeps Hanson Awards for 2022

Two constituents of San Joaquin College of Law were honored with Hanson Awards by the Fresno County Women Lawyers at the Annual Justice Pauline Hanson Dinner.

To honor the memory of Justice Hanson's spirit and leadership, the awards are bestowed upon "a deserving Fresno County attorney or legal professional who has made strides to advance the position of women in the legal community".

Kristina Garabedian, a 2014 graduate of San Joaquin College of Law, was this year's recipient of the Hanson Award. Kristina is an attorney at Carbone, Smith & Koyama, CSAA Insurance Group. She has served on the board of Fresno County Women Lawyers and is currently a member of the SJCL Alumni Association Board. Kristina is extremely active as a volunteer with charitable groups, in addition to mentoring young female attorneys and law students. She has run her own charity, ShoeBox Sharing, for 22 years, and has provided thousands of handmade blankets and other items to various groups, including the Marjaree Mason Centers, during that time.

This year's Justice Hanson Scholarship went to SJCL student Karen Lopez-Pena.



Karen Lopez-Pena (2L), Hanson Award Scholarship Recipient

Karen is a first-generation immigrant law student in her second year at SJCL. She works fulltime as a paralegal, volunteers at KIND (Kids In Need of Legal Defense) providing asylum, refugee, and immigration services to children - pro bono - and



Kristina Garabedian (Law '14), Hanson Award Winner

is a mother of two. Karen has dedicated her adulthood to inspiring women to pursue their dreams. The Justice Hanson Scholarship will assist Karen with her law school tuition.

Zurita was born in Merced and raised in the town of Planada. She majored in Spanish with a minor in political science. It was an easy decision to attend UC Merced because of its proximity to her hometown. But becoming a Bobcat didn't mean she was settling one bit. Zurita knew she was receiving a world-class education that the UC system is known for. She had several resources at her disposal, including professors from the Department of Political Science, pre-law courses, the Pre-Law Society and the Associated Students (ASUCM). She was also making connections with others in the field.

"The interactions at UC Merced played a role in my deciding to go to law school," she said. "I heard of alumna Linda Barreto from a staff member at the library, who recommended I learn more about her. That opened the opportunity for me to network."

Zurita says that coming from a small town made it hard to excel in academics, and to find a job. "Being a Latina has given me a lot of strength and motivation because I look into my roots, and I see all the struggles my parents had to go through. They are first-generation immigrants, and no one in my family obtained any type of education until I did. It's very empowering."

While she admits the thought of giving up on law school crosses her mind at times, Zurita says she looks to her Latina mentors at the clinic, and is reminded that if others can do it, she can do it as well.

Latinas make up less than 2% of all lawyers in the United States, even though they represent nearly 1 in 5 women in the country, according to the Hispanic National Bar Association.

"There's room for all of us," Barreto said. "As Latinas, we can help each other achieve success. I'm happy that that's something we can do at both SJCL and UC Merced."

The Battle on the Road to Appropriate Education

“I thought I was losing my mind” - is a statement heard across numerous intake interviews, voiced by parents from all walks of life coming to the BREN Clinic, feeling like they have nowhere else to turn.

This boiling frustration arises from the insurmountable task many parents of children with disabilities face – to push back against an entire school district when their child is denied appropriate access to an education and to do it alone.

When a child is suspected of having a disability or is enrolled in special education, the parents are asked to attend meetings with the district to discuss their child’s educational plan or eligibility. Typically, these meetings include the school’s principal, teachers, behavior therapists, psychologists, technicians, supervisors, and anyone else from the district’s team it deems pertinent to the discussion. The parent sits on the other side of that table, often without an advocate. During the hours-long meeting, parents are asked to wade through a mountain of documents full of acronyms and technical jargon and to make sense of the district’s Multidisciplinary Psychoeducational Assessment reports. The district’s several team members make their recommendations as they simultaneously flip through pages. In the end, parents must then either agree with the district or endure the dizzying rabbit hole of trying to decode the rights granted to them by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) – something even we law students find daunting.

By the time parents arrive at the BREN Clinic, they’re exhausted – mentally, physically, and emotionally. Often, they stumble into the BREN Clinic by word-of-mouth as the result of what many have claimed felt like a hopeless search for guidance. Unfortunately, almost no attorneys in the Central Valley focus on special education law, let alone those who will pro-

vide such legal services for free. Powered by a few law students led by one tenacious attorney, Jodie Howard, the BREN Clinic serves as a port in the storm for many struggling parents of children with disabilities looking to assert their rights against a school district. And remarkably, the clinic does so at no cost to the parents.

However, due to limited resources, the BREN Clinic is unable to represent every individual who comes through its doors. While the clinic will take on the more egregious cases as its workload will allow, there are still more children with disabilities in need than there are legal services to advocate for their educational rights. Nevertheless, Howard remains undeterred in striving to meet the overwhelming demand. For every case the BREN Clinic cannot represent, it educates parents and equips them with the knowledge necessary to advocate for their children effectively.

When parents sit with me for a consultation, it often ends with an immense sigh of relief, whether we take their case or not. They let out a breath as if they’d been holding it since their child was removed from a program or denied services, ranging weeks, months, or even years. “You are not alone” – is a statement I’ve said in countless interviews to parents of all backgrounds because they are not. The BREN Clinic may be small, but it is mighty - a lone lighthouse shining its light into the dark to safely guide others through murky waters.



BY LISA TALLEY
THIRD YEAR LAW STUDENT



Good News: Your child is no longer autistic...

The re-labeling of a child's diagnoses of autism - to perfectionism and being "very literal" - can affect what, if any, special needs services a school district provides.

BY **DIANE SKOUTI**, ALUMNI LIAISON

Elyse Doerflinger teaches transitional kindergarten - a kind of pre-K that helps four-year-olds get a leg up as they embark on their educational journeys. Because of this crucial role in early education, one might expect a teacher like Elyse to have the experience and know-how to assist a kindergartner who has autism, possible dyslexia, and ADHD. Her son James, who's five, just entered kindergarten in a general education class, with each of the aforementioned. James attended private preschool and had private occupational therapy as well as speech therapy prior to kindergarten. But, in spite of doing everything in her power to prepare, Elyse says they hit a brick wall during his first few weeks of school.

"He got into a deep depression after (arriving home from school). It was affecting his therapy, and his home life," she says. As parents of special needs kids know, proper assessments and evaluations are imperative for obtaining the best educational outcomes. In "normal" times, these necessities can be hard to come by. "During the pandemic," said Elyse, "all evaluations and assessments were severely delayed, and everything came to a stop." She says when James finally did get evaluated, the process was a condensed version that did not provide the full picture of his needs.

Elyse reached out to Jodi Howard and the BREN Clinic at SJCL for help. In spite of her role as a teacher, she didn't know enough about the resources or rights of special needs students in school.

"It was a huge help to put all my concerns on the table," Elyse said. "We brainstormed. I didn't expect nearly as much as she gave."

One must know the proper tools to request an independent and thorough evaluation of their child, as well as the option of requesting a classroom aid who does not smother or earmark any student

as having special needs. Elyse also learned about what State and Federal law calls due process. It involves going before an administrative judge to argue why your child needs services. It's up to the school district to argue either for or against. What is needed is someone looking out for what is truly best for your kid," Elyse said, "not based on what is convenient or affordable for the school district."

Elyse felt it was important that James not be stigmatized by having a classroom aid who worked only with him. She worried that it would inhibit and limit his progress. As a highly functioning child with autism, some evaluators were unable to recognize his tendency toward sensory overload and meltdown. "He just needs someone present to help in that moment, to intervene properly and prevent a derailing of his progress," she said.

Before Jodie helped Elyse request an Independent Education Evaluation (IEE), the school district had tried to exit him from special ed class. "They told me: 'Good news, your son is no longer autistic!' Because he is highly functioning, they re-labeled him as being a perfectionist, as being a "very literal" child." Elyse says these markers of autism are seriously limiting in a classroom setting when tasks are timed, and the day is highly scheduled. A task like cutting out a paper circle can be agonizing for a child who is a severe perfectionist. Rather than completing the task the best they can in the time allotted, they shut down in the absence of perfection. For James, that meant hiding under a table, taking off his shoes, and replacing words with grunts and growls.

"It took 20 minutes for the four adults in the classroom to convince James to cut out his paper circle, and they called that a success," Elyse said.

At the moment, Elyse is in the midst of the fight for a classroom aid. "We are still at the evaluation stage," she says, "and after that there will be meetings on the findings and decisions as to the services he can receive."

Parents of special needs children need to know what their children's rights and options are. Due to budget issues, the school districts and regional center systems aren't always forthcoming about available resources. And when they are, you need a law degree to understand the legalese, she said. "The BREN clinic provides all that and more. They look out for what is best for our children. I wish we could clone Jodi! So many families need the help the BREN clinic provides."

Added Elyse, "I consider myself an educated person. For families who don't have that background I can't even imagine (the difficulties in getting help for their special needs kids.)"



SJCL ON THE MOVE

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

Aaron J. Aguirre (Law '09) is now an Associate Attorney at Simms, Lawrence & Broghammer

Roxanne F. Alchian (Law '18) is now a Fresno County Deputy District Attorney.

Paul S. Armo (Law '22) is now an Associate Attorney at the Law Office of Lance E. Armo.

Emilio Avellaneda (Law '19) is now an Associate Attorney at Darren Richie, Esq. (DRE) in Beverly Hills.

Michel J. Bryant (Law '91) has created a show for A&E Network called "I Survived a Crime." It was picked up by Netflix for 24 episodes and went to #2 nationally, so A&E just ordered another 12 episodes. Meanwhile, Michel continues hosting live trial coverage on the Law & Crime Network each week.

J. Preston Castleman (Law '18) has opened the Law Office of Preston Castleman in Visalia.

Jeffrey C. Castleton (Law '17) is now a Merced County Deputy District Attorney.

Andrea M. Chapman (Law '17) is now a partner at Coleman & Horowitz LLP.

Mark W. Coleman (Law '84) has opened the "Law Office of Mark W. Coleman" in Fresno.

Alexandria De La Fuente (Law '15) is now a Staff Attorney at SEIU Local 1000.

Joy K. Dockter (Law '10) is now a Health Team Attorney at Central California Legal Services.

Jaymie A. Eaton (Law '21) is now a Law Clerk for U. S. District Judge Jennifer L. Thurston.

Cinderela I. Echols (Law '15) and her husband, Jonathan J. Echols (Law '14), have opened a healthcare software company called HomeCareIQ. Cinderela,

a Registered Nurse, created the company with her husband to serve home health agencies nationwide. They are in the process of moving their headquarters to Houston, TX, home of the largest medical center in the world.

Amy L. Freeman (Law '03) is now a Fresno County Court Commissioner. Judge Freeman becomes the eleventh SJCL Alumni Court Commissioner, and SJCL's 65th bench officer.

Jaskaran S. Gill (Law '17) is now an Associate Attorney with Fennemore Dowling Aaron, where his practice is focused primarily in the areas of personal injury and civil litigation.

Vismaad Gondara (Law '18) is now an Associate Attorney at Barsamian & Moody.

Jesica Y. Gonzalez (Law '22) is now a Deputy Attorney General.

Joseph D. Good (Law '19) is now a Housing Team Attorney at Central California Legal Services.

The California Supreme Court has named Fresno County Superior Court Judge **Amy K. Guerra** (Law '07) to the State Bar's Committee of Bar Examiners. The Court states "The committee's roles include development and administration of the California Bar Exam and oversight of the moral character determination and admissions processes for attorneys. The committee also accredits state law schools and registers unaccredited state law schools." Judge Guerra begins her first four-year term Nov. 1, replacing Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Shelly B. Torrealba.

Ellen M. Jahn (Law '88) is now a Judicial Staff Attorney for the Fresno Superior Court.

Cassandra Sheanh Kaur (Law '19) is now an Associate Attorney at Michael Sullivan & Associates.

Charlotte M. Konczal (Law '00) is now Senior Trial Attorney at Schneider, Holtz & Hutchison in Sacramento.

Sylvia Luna (Law '22) is now a Deputy Fresno City Attorney.

Seth Mehrten (Law '13) has been elevated to Partner at Barsamian & Moody.

Rosa E. Oregel-Gonzalez (Law '22) is now an attorney with the U.S. District Court Eastern District.

John Orman (Law '15) is now a Partner at Laughlin, Falbo, Levy and Moresi.

Surinder Padma (Law '21) is now an Associate Attorney at Fitzgerald, Alvarez & Ciummo in Madera.

Tomas J. Ross (Law '13) is now Senior Trial Counsel for Chavez Legal Group, staff counsel for Fred Loya Insurance Company, managing the Orange County legal office remotely from Fresno. He specializes in insurance defense and complex civil litigation.

BreAnne R. Ruelas (Law '18) has opened the Law Office of BreAnne Ruelas in Bakersfield.

Aosam F. Saleh (Law '22) is now a Fresno County Deputy District Attorney.

Tirzah Y. Umana (Law '18) is now a Staff Attorney at Central California Legal Services.

Maritza Uribe (Law '19) is now an Associate Attorney at the Law Firm of Leslie A. Soley, Attorney at Law.

Katherine A. Villegas (Law '18) has joined Fresno Child Advocates, the firm which replaces the District Attorney's Office in representing juveniles in dependency matters.

Cherilynn Wortham (Law '11) is now a Family/Immigration Team Attorney at Central California Legal Services.

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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.



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SJCL alumni and current students were present en masse at the Mario G. Olmos Memorial Scholarship Banquet in October.

SAVE THE DATE

got mcle?

The SJCL Alumni Association will present four (4) hours of MCLE credit at their annual Got MCLE? event on:

Saturday, January 7, 2023

This year's offering will be a hybrid event, with in-person sessions at SJCL, in addition to select sessions being offered concurrently via Zoom. One credit hour will be offered in each of the required areas of Elimination of Bias, Ethics, and Competency.

For more and registration information, please email:
sjclalumniassociation@gmail.com