

VOLUME III, NUMBER 3
October, 1992

The Newsletter of
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SJCL Adds Two Full-Time Law Professors To Faculty

San Joaquin College of Law is pleased to announce that two law professors have joined our faculty on a full-time basis. Both are familiar faces at SJCL.

Richard Cartier has taught in the paralegal and law programs at SJCL since 1984. Previously, he was a partner with the law firm of Register and Cartier. Professor Cartier also holds a teaching credential, an administrative services credential and has served as an educational consultant. This semester, he is teaching Wills and Trusts and Civil Procedure.

Professor Cartier is a member of the

American Bar Association and State Bar Family Law sections and the Fresno County Bar Association Family Law Committee. He has also been instru-

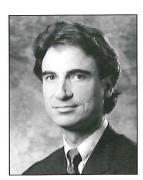


Richard M. Cartier

mental in organizing SJCL's first faculty newsletter, called *Interaction*. The goal of the newsletter is to promote increased dialogue and interaction between the faculty and staff of SJCL in the advancement of student learning and academic excellence.

For the past three years, Professor Lawrence Artenian has served as a member of the SJCL adjunct faculty where he taught courses in Contracts and Legal Research and Writing. He has served as an Associate Attorney with the law firm of McCormick, Barstow, Sheppard, Wayte & Carruth, where he negotiated

and drafted business and real property contracts and leases, and managed business-related litigation matters. Prior to this, Professor Artenian was an Associate



Lawrence M. Artenian

Attorney for the San Francisco law firm of Dooley, Anderson, Berg, Pardini, Johnson & Ziegler, and was responsible for the firm's full litigation caseload.

From 1989-1991, he served as President of the Downtown Association of Fresno, Inc., and was a member of the Fresno Central Area Planning Task Force. This past year, Professor Artenian was recognized as "Teacher of the Year" at SJCL.

The addition of Professors Cartier and Artenian brings the total number of full-time faculty at SJCL to five. Also, there are now some 68 instructors who represent our adjunct faculty in the law, tax and paralegal programs.

Please join us in welcoming Professors Cartier and Artenian as new full-time faculty members to SJCL! ■

INSIDE...

This issue of **Inter Alia** features our special recognition of all SJCL donors in 1991-92.



SJCL's final WASC accreditation site visit is scheduled for November 10-13, 1992. The visiting team will prepare a report and recommendation based upon their observations during the visit. The report will be presented to the full WASC Commission in February for a decision – one critical to SJCL's future. Should SJCL fail to obtain full accreditation, students will no longer be eligible for financial aid and access to a legal education will be unavailable to large portions of the population of the southern San Joaquin Valley.

In advance of the visit, SJCL has prepared an extensive Self-Study, a review of the entire operation of the law school, including a retrospective of the six years of candidacy for accreditation. In October of 1986, 122 individuals studied law at San Joaquin College of Law. Projections at that time reflected gradual growth to a total student population of 152 in the academic year 92-93. Actual law enrollment in 92-93 is 305.

Net income for academic year 86-87 was \$603,463, with a projection to 92-93 of \$964,508. Actual net income in 92-93 will be \$2,040,990.

In October of 1986, SJCL had one fulltime professor, the Dean. Now there are five. In October of 1986, virtually all administrative and some academic responsibility lay with the Dean. Now, curricular decisions lie with the faculty. Faculty and administration also have cooperative authority for faculty selection, evaluation and hiring. Faculty participate on committees focused on every aspect of the

school's operation. Administration is effected by a four-person management team – the Dean, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Associate Dean for Advancement, and Director of Operations.

Academically, in 1986, there were hopes of raising the bar passage rates of July 1984, 1985, and 1986 (26.3%, 46.4%, and

44.0% respectively). Almost all of the individuals in those classes have ultimately passed. And now passage rates have been consistently high for four years (90%, 95.4%, 87.7%, and 75%).

Most importantly, in 1986, SJCL really did not see the impact it was having on the southern San Joaquin Valley. Now we know. Approximately 23% of the practicing bar in Fresno County consists of SJCL graduates. More than 50% of the women lawyers in Fresno County graduated from SJCL. Over the next four years, SJCL will graduate enough minority lawyers to increase their numbers in Fresno County by at least a third.

One major problem remains. The physical plant of the school is utterly inadequate

for its needs. SJCL has been searching for a new facility for at least three years. In July of 1992, we believed we had culminated a purchase of a building near First and Gettysburg streets, but the agreement disintegrated because SJCL felt it was imprudent to sign a contract including a clause agreeing to indemnify the sellers for any and all environmental liability they might ever be assessed regarding the building.

Student preferences have helped us cope with the space crunch. During the last two years, about 35% of the entering class has selected afternoon classes, while 65% requested evening classes. This fall, the statistics reversed – 65% of the entering class sought afternoon classes. However, appropriately configured classrooms, library

space, student lounge, office and storage space are still critical needs. So the search continues.

For those of you who have worked with the school throughout the last six years, the change is astonishing. It's also exciting. So many people have given so much effort to make them a reality. There is little interest in any quarter in the school growing still larger in terms of enrollment, but there are endless new projects for the school's development in terms of academic enrichment, public service, and prestige, currently hampered only by lack of space. Accordingly, the next six years look to be equally exciting.

Janice L. Pearson *Dean*

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Getting Through The First Year Of Law School

BY DAVID HOGUE

President, SJCL Student Bar Association

On behalf of the Student Bar Association, I would like to welcome all of the new and returning students to SJCL. As part of first-year orientation last August, the Student Bar sponsored a question-and-answer session to give new students some idea of what to expect in law school. I would like to reiterate some of the points made at that orientation and add some additional thoughts on how to get through the first year.

For the new students, I know that the last couple of months have been a whir of activity. Trust me, things will begin to settle down. As the weeks pass, your comfort level will increase. You will begin to know what your professors expect. You will organize, reorganize and reorganize again as you try to memorize and apply the law. Issues and holdings in cases will come easier as you will begin to see the logic behind the opinions. Progress will be slow but you will begin to better understand the material.

Many of the things learned in law school have nothing to do directly with the law. Time management, work efficiency, stress management and thinking on your feet are all a natural consequence of the first year. Be aware that a large portion of your time will be spent obtaining these skills or refining them for a legal application. Remember that these skills are crucial for your success in law school. Be patient.

The first year of law school – in addition to learning the law – is a test to see how well you handle anxiety. Learning to think and function under stress is one of the painful lessons. During my first-year orientation, a fourth-year student gave us some good advice. He said, "Hard work is the best cure for anxiety." So remember that anxiety is not productive use of your mental facilities. Use that energy to solve legal problems. Worrying helps no one, but action does.

Law school is also a very personal experience. Your reactions, impressions and speed in which you learn will be different from the rest of your classmates. You will share some experiences and have some of the same reactions to the material and problems presented, but the combination of experiences and reactions will be yours alone. Remember, don't be too harsh on yourself. If you do the work and attend class, comprehension of the material will follow.

Sharing your thoughts with others who are going through the same experience pro-

vides a good perspective. That is why I encourage everyone to form a group to discuss the law. The term "Study Group" often has a bad connotation. A bull session, a waste of time, domination by one member, are all common criticisms of the study group. These may be valid, but a study group is only as good as the people in it. Look for group members who are focused and good listeners, but have a sense of

Remember, don't be too harsh on yourself. If you do the work and attend class, comprehension of the material will follow.

humor. I believe that through the use of a study group, I have increased my grade point average between five and 10 points.

Keep your sense of humor. Enjoy your professors and classmates. Respect for your professors and their ability is paramount, but they are human. They put their clothes on in the morning just like you do. The difference is their experience. Respect that experience, but take time to have fun.

Because of their abilities, professors may have some idiosyncracies that make them both extraordinary and different. Have fun with those personality traits. Laughter is some of the best medicine, and it is a cure for some of the seriousness encountered in law school.

Don't be afraid to talk to people at the law school who are more "seasoned" than you are. Second, third and fourth-year students have all been where you are now and they may be able to give you insight into the preferences of a particular instructor. They may also help you with study hints and ways to organize your legal materials.

Finally, you need to consistently do those things which are the easiest. To be successful in law school you must come to class and read. You will be so tired of reading that the temptation not to read will be great. There will be nights that you are tired, there may be other things you would like to do, or you just don't feel like going to class. Resist the temptation. Generally, those who prepare before coming to class will succeed. Those who don't will fail. Hard work and persistence will pay off.

I wish you all the best of luck and hope that the coming year is successful. ■

Tax Program Enrollment Doubles

Enrollment in the San Joaquin College of Law Masters Program in Taxation has doubled over the past year, bringing the total number of students currently participating on the program to 40.

The program offers the only option for Valley practitioners who wish to specialize in taxation. The program also provides expanded choices for those who require MCLE or CPE credit. Many professionals also choose to audit classes in the tax program as a means to informally broaden their expertise.

Increased interest in the program is due to a number of factors. Over the past year, SJCL has taken steps to boost the visibility of the program – and the flexibility it offers – to a larger number of tax practitioners and attorneys throughout the Central Valley. This has been accomplished through a series of direct mail efforts, an informational advertising campaign and various publicity avenues within the local CPA community.

With the recent elimination of the tax courses at California State University, Fresno, SJCL's tax program has become an even more viable choice for local practitioners.

The SJCL Tax Program Marketing Committee, which was formed last year, has been active in helping the program grow. Its members include Jackie Margritz, Douglas Vogl, Phillip Hollingsworth, Toni Porter and Bill Erysian.

The taxation program at SJCL was established in 1980 and designed for Valley practitioners who seek a greater understanding of the principles of taxation and for those wishing to develop an expertise in tax methods. Classes are held in the evening. The fall session runs from late August to October, the winter session from mid November to January and the spring session from late April to early July.

For more information on the program, contact Jacqueline Margritz, SJCL Admissions Officer/Tax Program Coordinator at 225-4953. ■

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SJCL Students Networking In The 90's

BY GEOFFREY SIMS

NETWORKING. It's a buzzword of the 90's. If it were to be found in the Webster's New World Dictionary, it would probably say something like this:

NETWORKING: verb; 1. An opportunity to meet others in your chosen field of endeavor; 2. To use that knowledge to get ahead; 3. See also, "Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity."

Delta Theta Phi, one of the three leading law fraternities serving law students around the world, has become a viable, functioning group once again at San Joaquin College of Law.

Originally founded in the early 1980's, the SJCL Delta Theta Phi charter inducted seven leading legal practitioners and judges from the San Joaquin Valley as Charter Honorary Members. Also inducted as honorary members were Justice James J. Ardaiz, Judges Edward Dean Price, Oliver W. Wanger and A. Dennis Caeton, District Attorney Ed Hunt and SJCL Dean Janice L. Pearson.

If some of those names don't sound familiar, consider them with these corresponding SJCL points of reference:

Justice Best is a founding member of the SJCL Board of Directors and for a time taught Evidence here - the course that Justice Ardaiz currently teaches. Judge Wanger teaches Civil Procedure and was a founder of the law school. Judge Caeton teaches Criminal Law/Procedure. District Attorney Hunt graduated from SJCL in 1974. And Dean Pearson - well, if you have to ask who Jan Pearson is at this point ...get your head out of that casebook!

Just listing the honorary members of Delta Theta Phi should not be enough to encourage you to join. Rather, think about the opportunities. The Fraternity is linking up with its past members – from SJCL and other law schools – who practice here in the greater Fresno metropolitan area. You have chosen law as a career and there are people out there who can help you get ahead.

This semester, the Fraternity is holding its first seminar open to all SJCL students. It's called "Leaping From Law School To Lawyer". This seminar will give the SJCL law student a chance to go "one-on-one" with real attorneys and learn from their experiences while building networking opportunities. In the spring, Delta Theta Phi will present a resume writing seminar that will help SJCL students "sell" themselves in the legal field.

Remember, Delta Theta Phi provides an opportunity for law students to get to know one another as well as lean on one another - in a way that only fellow law students can. Networking. It's not just a word. It's action. It's opportunity. Delta Theta Phi can offer that opportunity. Think about joining today.

MCLE Update

San Joaquin College of Law is sponsoring a two-part series on **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**. Attorneys can earn up to 6.5 hours MCLE credit in Legal Ethics/Law Practice Management. The first session, scheduled for **Saturday**, **October 24**, will provide an introduction to the different processes, ethical considerations and a mock mediation involving participants. The second session will be held on **Saturday**, **November 14**, and will address the attorney's role in ADR. For more information, contact Michele Creighton, MCLE Coordinator, at (209) 225-4953.

San Joaquin College of Law has entered into an agreement with Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB) to serve as a host site for their Video Network. Video replays of CEB's quality MCLE programs will be shown regularly at the law school. Check your monthly CEB program catalog for topics, dates and MCLE credit.

La Raza Law Students

The La Raza Law Students Organization will hold its next meeting on November 4, 1992, at 5:45 pm. (Room number to be announced). We will select new officers and finalize plans for a workshop on exam taking techniques. Everyone is welcome. For information, call Marina Sorlie at 441-1611. ■



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