

# Inter Alia

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March 1995

The Newsletter of  
San Joaquin  
College of Law

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## SJCL continues *Building on Success* because of supporters like:

### Bud and Marci Ellis

"I want there to be a place where students can learn hands-on, practical knowledge, and it is just not possible in the current location," stated Dr. Bud Ellis when asked the impetus for pledging \$50,000 toward the Mock Court Room. —



Ellis, a 1989 SJCL graduate, and formerly an orthodontist, said San Joaquin College of Law provided him the opportunity to pursue a career change. "If it were not for the flexible schedules at the College, I would have had to take a sabbatical from my practice to fulfill another goal—that of becoming an attorney." He and his wife, Marci, continue to live in Visalia, and Bud is practicing in the Tulare District Attorney's Office.

The Ellis' have been involved in many community activities from Special Olympics to Rotary. "We have always made it our goal to give back to those who have helped us so much," stated Marci.

Ellis said the need for a courtroom became really apparent to him when he taught Civil Trial Practice at the College. "We tried to set-up a classroom like a courtroom," he continued, "needless to say, it didn't work very well."

*Continued on page 7 -- "Ellis"*

### Ross Borba, Jr., Borba Farms

For many years the Borba families have been philanthropic toward institutions and projects which add to the quality of Central Valley residents' lives. "San Joaquin College of Law certainly fits these requirements," states Ross Borba, Jr. This is why Borba Farms has pledged \$50,000 toward the *Building On Success* Campaign--\$25,000 for the Student Lounge and \$25,000 for the Bookstore.

Borba first became associated with the College as a member, and later as Chairman, of the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* Advisory Committee. He presently serves on the Board of Trustees. "Since I have become involved with the College, I have gained a sincere appreciation of the many benefits it provides to the Central Valley." He continues, "Beyond the benefit of quality legal education to Valley residents are services such as the Small Claims Advisory Project, the Family Law Mediation Project, Minimum Continuing Legal Education programs and the Law Review are all benefits which, without the College, would not exist."



Borba Farms started growing row crops on 60 acres in the early 1940s. "In those days, it was only cotton, barley, and some sugar beets," states Borba.

*Continued on page 7 -- "Borba"*

## INSIDE...

Look for information regarding:

A New Scholarship for SJCL Students

New Column: "Pioneers of SJCL"

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

### Sally Perring Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

As Academic Dean, I oversee the academic program at San Joaquin College of Law. My tasks include scheduling and staffing classes, insuring curricular and instructional quality, and shepherding policies and procedures to adoption for the benefit of the institution, faculty and students. My goal is to insure our graduates are ready to take their place in the legal community and provide quality legal services to those who need help.



Having Spring Semester "in the bag" and planning for Summer school, there is no one at SJCL more excited than I am about the prospects of the upcoming move to Clovis. Currently, the severe limitations of available classroom space limit the number of classes which can be offered each semester. Few electives can be offered during the regular school year as required courses fill most classrooms. Larger classes, which must meet in Room 100, literally give the instructor a pain in the neck—from having to swing his or her head back and forth to the left and the right to be heard by or to hear students at either side of the classroom. Smaller classes, whether they be in the Paralegal, Tax, or Law program, invariably get pushed to the Computer Lab or to the Law Review Office. The high quality of legal education which occurs under these conditions is a testament both to students who want to learn the law and faculty who want to teach the law.

One of the more exciting aspects of the new building will be space reserved for use by the adjunct faculty. Over 60 members of the area's professional community give their time and expertise to our stu-

dents. Most of our adjunct faculty work a full day before coming here to teach until 9:30 at night. At the new facility we will have a room for the faculty library where instructors can work and store their class materials. There will be space set aside for adjunct faculty to meet with their students. And, a Faculty/Staff Lounge will replace the dumpster as a place to relax.

Finally, the heart of any educational institution is the library. Currently, the library is by necessity and by default a multi-purpose room. It is the only indoor space where students can congregate and study. Unfortunately, these two func-

tions are often at odds with one another. The new Student Lounge will alleviate this conflict. Student study groups will be able to use closed conference rooms in the library to argue the relative merits of the original intent in interpreting the Constitution, without disturbing the first year student struggling with the notion of volition. Not only will the collection of books be more accessible

to students, but we can begin the exciting task of expanding our collection of secondary material. Also, computer and technological facilities will be integrated with the rest of the library. As the millennium approaches, CD-ROMs and on-line information replace the dusty tomes of old.

While few believe "the clothes make the man", we at SJCL know the "building does not make the school." The soul of SJCL has always been the delivery of a quality education. We have demonstrated this can be done in any facility. However, with the new building, we will be able to show the whole community that the soul of a butterfly has been trapped in the body of a caterpillar. When I began this message I thought to acknowledge and praise the efforts of our staff and faculty in insuring that our students receive the best, most practical legal education possible. It must be that I see the new building as the best tribute to those who for 25 years have worked so hard to educate and improve legal services in the Central Valley.

## San Joaquin College of Law

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## Alumni Update

### SJCL Alumni "Sworn In"

On December 12, 1994 at 3:00 in the afternoon, several San Joaquin College of Law Alumni were admitted in a joint ceremony of the California Fifth District Court of Appeal and the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California. There were approximately 80 total new admittees at the Fresno Ceremony. The Honorable James A. Ardaiz, Presiding Justice of the Fifth District Court of Appeal presided over the ceremony, and

Magistrate Dennis Beck represented the U.S. Federal Court. The ceremony featured presentations by Barbara Greayer, Director, California Young Lawyers Association; James Sherwood, President, Fresno County Young Lawyers Association; Jerome Braun, Senior Executive, Office of Admissions of the State Bar of California; and Donald Fischbach, President, State Bar of California.



*SJCL graduates receive the Oath of Admission to the State Bar of California at the swearing-in ceremonies held in December.*

Family and friends joined the new admittees in a reception following the ceremony, co-sponsored by the Fresno County Young Lawyers Association and the Women's Law League.

### Alumni Association Brings "Christmas" to Children

"Look, Mom, a Barbie. . ." "Wow, a new pair of pants!" were just a few of the comments from the children who had their Christmas wishes become reality because of San Joaquin College of Law Alumni Association. Forty children, who might have otherwise had a "limited Christmas" were each given a toy (from their "wish list") and clothing.

Laurel Gerbrandt and Gina Wallace, organizers for the event, say that everyone had a wonderful time. "It was great to see a child's face light up," stated Gerbrandt. Wallace added, "Not only the child's face, but also the parents' faces."

Stockings and "stuffers" were donated by the Alumni Association. The gifts and refreshments were donated by alumni, staff, and faculty.

A Christmas Party would not be complete without Santa--who had a little help from Jim Petrucelli.

### SJCL Alumni Association 1995 Board of Directors

**James Michael Petrucelli ('89)**  
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**Laurel Gerbrandt ('92)**  
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**Gina Wallace ('93)**  
Bar Survival Co-Chair

**Thomas Giovacchini ('78)**

**Charles Magill ('89)**

## News Briefs

### Four SJCL Students Recieve Mario G. Olmos Scholarship

Carmen Lango, Stanley Ma, Eduardo Ruiz, and James Trevino were among the recipients of the annual Mario G. Olmos Scholarship winners this year. The awards were presented at a dinner held on January 18, 1995. Congratulations to all!

### Summer Taxation Courses Set

You can receive MCLE and CPE credit for attending any of SJCL's Graduate Tax Courses. Classes scheduled for the summer session are:

State and Local Taxation

Corporation I

Individual III, Sales and Exchanges

Classes begin the week of April 24 and continue through July 1. All sessions are held in the evening from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. You do not have to be enrolled in the M.S. program to take these classes. Contact Joyce Morodomi at SJCL for more information.

# Staff Changes at SJCL

There have been staff changes at San Joaquin College of Law over the last few months. These changes come at a time of continued growth and exciting developments at our institution.

*Jacqueline Chavanu, Director of Public Relations:* After serving as the Admissions Officer for 3 1/2 years, Jackie joined the Advancement Department. With her knowledge of the College, a minor in Marketing and creative talents, she is a great fit in the Advancement Office.

*Joyce Morodomi, Admissions Officer:* After serving as Law Coordinator for nearly 3 years, Joyce brings her talent to a new job, as Admissions Officer. She will now be involved with recruitment, the Masters in Taxation Program and Registrar duties.

*Joan Lassley, Law Coordinator:* Joan comes to the position from the accounting department, where she worked as the Financial Assistant and Bookstore Manager. As Law Coordinator, Joan administrates coordination of the law program, and acts as the liaison contact for adjunct and full-time faculty. She also handles room scheduling for the College.

In addition, *Dana Hunt* is assisting in the Accounting Department. She comes to SJCL from the Stockton area where she worked for Gray & Associates, a CPA firm, after receiving her B.S. from the University of the Pacific.

## "Pioneers of SJCL" Alumni Share Stories

*Times have changed at San Joaquin College of Law, so we have asked our alumni to share stories of their days at the College. Here is an excerpt from a letter written by Tom Campagne ('75):*

"I clearly remember my first evening in law school. I did not know anyone. I was assigned to the first row. To my left sat a very industrious looking student (whom I later learned was named Ernest Kinney) and to my right sat a confident looking fellow who mentioned that he was a Fresno State University Professor.

Dean Judge Dan Eymann introduced himself. Then Judge Eymann promptly explained in the harshest of terms (so there would be no misunderstanding) that there were 72 students in the class and that he only expected one-third of the class to graduate. He explained that the school expected to flunk out more students than "the baby bar" would eliminate. To drive his point home, Judge Eymann said he wanted each student to look to the right and then to the left, and imagine which one of the three seats would survive. I looked to the left and Ernest Kinney snarled at me, stating something to the effect that he had gotten good grades at FSU and had been student body president, so I should not waste my time looking at him. Then I looked to my right and the professor told me that he had received almost a perfect score on the LSAT.

At mid-semester, the FSU professor to my right (with the almost perfect LSAT score) flunked out! Ernest Kinney and I seemed to relax and finally the second semester became friends. As it turned out, only 12 graduated, but both Ernest and I survived. Of those 12, there were 8 or 9 divorces or separations. We all passed "the baby bar" and the big bar on the first try. Another student (number 13), who had made it with us for four years, but was not allowed to graduate, had to take the bar exam twice.

Another anecdote that sticks in my mind involves that very first same day of law school. After Judge Eymann scared us with the grim statistics about how few

would eventually graduate, he then introduced us to Oliver Wanger (now Judge Wanger) who was to be our criminal law teacher. We were all so depressed after hearing Judge Eymann's grim pass/fail statistics, I suppose Judge Wanger decided to show mercy on us because he gave a rather uplifting speech about his love of the law. He then made a comment that I believe everyone in our class who survived will always remember. When someone asked Judge Wanger whether Judge Eymann was exaggerating about the expected pass/fail statistics, he simply looked the student in the eye and said "You will get to a point where you will enjoy studying 40 hours a week; and after all, what will you be doing four years from now if you don't go through law school; four years from now on a Monday evening at 7:00 p. m. you will be sitting in front of a color television worrying about what you could have been doing; whereas if you graduate from law school, the doors of opportunity will be open to you." Thereafter, whenever I would be tired from work and study, I would reflect upon the carrot (opening doors of opportunity) and stick (2 out of 3 will fail) speeches which Judge Wanger and Judge Eymann had delivered. Both of them were right. We worked hard, but we enjoyed it; and the doors of opportunity were thrown open to all of us who took advantage of the opportunity that had been presented to us through the founding of San Joaquin College of Law.

Through my four years of law school, I was often teased for being the youngest (I had gone to college when I was 16). But the sad reality is that, because of my father's death and my obligations on our family farm, I would have never been able to fulfill my dream of going to law school without the opportunities which Judge Eymann and Judge Wanger provided to us. Years later when I met Mr. Leon Peters, who was also fundamental in founding the College, I thought his vision for the Central San Joaquin Valley was like Judge Eymann and Judge Wanger's speeches, contagious to all those with whom he came in contact."

# Alumni--

## Have you completed the SJCL Alumni Survey?

### Thanks to all who have!

## SJCL Staff Profile

### Karen Besecker



Quiet. Hardworker. Funny. Positive. Organized. These are just a few of the words that describe Karen Besecker.

She joined San Joaquin College of Law in 1990 and has worked in a number of positions.

Karen enjoys working "behind the scenes" at SJCL. You've probably seen her running around at various student and

alumni functions, such as fashion shows, alumni reunions, spring banquets and graduations. She was also the Assistant Director for the *Law & Legal Survival Skills* video tape series for immigrant populations. She is still the staff person who assists with the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* too.

Currently, after a half-time two year stint in the Minimum Continuing Education Department, Karen is back in Advancement full-time. We're happy to have her full attention again as we gear up for the capital campaign.

Jackie Chavanu and Karen work together as SJCL's grant writing team. They have attended various local workshops to continue learning about the process. Karen also supports the Advancement Department through research and day-to-day activities. She says, "working at SJCL is never dull. I've met a lot of interesting students and alumni over my five years, and I really look forward to the move to Clovis"—she currently has a 6x6 workspace in a hallway!

Karen and her husband, Rick have a daughter Katherine Joy, who just turned one.

For all that you do, Karen, we say thank you!

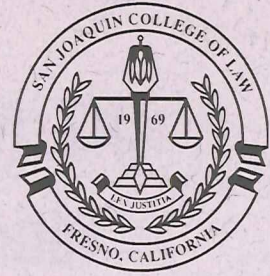
## A Few Notes from the Advancement Department:

Many of you have requested that the *Inter Alia* be published more often. To meet your request, you will notice that there is a new format. To keep the information more timely while not increasing our cost, we have changed the format and will publish it more often. If you have further suggestions, please let us know.

When we were brainstorming ideas for the title of the Capital Campaign, the recurring theme was that SJCL has come a long way since the first classes met at Fresno Pacific College some 25 years ago. Throughout the years the goal of providing an education to those that might not have had an opportunity to otherwise study law has remained the same. The insight of the founders combined with the support and success of our alumni, faculty, and friends has forged the College ahead and continued *Building on Success*.

As the College embarks on a new venture, obtaining a building consistent with its operational needs, there are many opportunities for alumni and friends of the College to play a vital role. If you are interested in helping with this exciting campaign, please let Kristin Robinson know.

Thanks to all the alumni who have returned the Alumni Survey. We will let you know the results in the next issue of *Inter Alia*.



## San Joaquin College of Law Staff

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JACQUELINE CHAVANU  
Director of Public Relations

CATHERINE CLINE  
Coordinator for Development

KAREN BESECKER  
Administrative Assistant

## SJCL Team of DeMelo and Moreno Win Awards at National Moot Court Sports Law Competition

San Joaquin College of Law has done it again, beating out much bigger and better-known law schools to take top honors at the Tulane University National Moot Court Sports Law Competition held in New Orleans, LA, February 21-24.

Jerry DeMelo and Sally Moreno-Orme received the top two individual advocacy awards. Jerry received first and Sally took second place for Best Oralist.

Thirty-four law schools from across the nation were invited to compete and only those with traditionally strong moot court teams are selected. Among the law schools present were the University of Southern California, Georgetown University School of Law, Villanova School of Law, Rutgers, and Florida State University School of Law. San Joaquin College of Law was one of the few State Accredited schools invited to compete.

"This really enforces the credibility of SJCL's Moot Court Program, anonymity of teams made it so judges did not know

which university students were from--the coaching at SJCL placed us on equal footing with larger, ABA law schools recognized nationally for their moot court programs," explains DeMelo.

SJCL coaches were Sarah Schmidt and Patti Williams, and the team actually consisted of three students. Besides DeMelo and Moreno-Orme, Beth Holck-Fung assisted with researching, writing, and administrative functions. Moreno-Orme says, "the most reward came from working and resolving problems together, then having our efforts result in tangible success."

The debate centered around Title 9, the Federal Statute that requires universities to provide equal athletic opportunities. Historic preferences have favored male-dominated sports; this statute requires equal funding for female athletes as well. Recently, the statute became a prevalent issue with California State University, Fresno, and is an important issue for many other universities across the Country.



*Jerry DeMelo and Sally Moreno receive First and Second place awards in individual oral advocacy.*

### Did you know?

**This is the 10th Anniversary of the Small Claim Court Advisor Project.**

## The Honorable Annette LaRue Donates Scholarship to SJCL

Donation of the "A Woman Lawyer Scholarship" by the Honorable Annette LaRue offers a second, third, or fourth year female student the opportunity to receive a \$1,000 scholarship toward tuition. The student must be working at least 15 hours per week and receive no other scholarship funds. The individual will show outstanding "promise as a lawyer".

"I want to recognize women who have gone through a law education without the support that many others have had," stated LaRue.

The new Scholarship will be available on an annual basis for a minimum of ten years. There will be a selection committee, however, Judge LaRue determines the final recipient. "Many students have taken the risks of pursuing an education under less than optimal circumstances, and they will serve the community well," added LaRue.

It is because of people like Judge LaRue that SJCL can continue investing in ideas and believing in people. Thank you, Judge LaRue, for your generous donation!

# Donor Contributions By Fund

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## Facilities Gifts

Delta Theta Phi  
 Helon ('78) & Manfredo  
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 San Joaquin College of Law  
 Student Bar Association  
 Ray Stone

## Library

Delta Theta Phi

## Scholarships

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 Honorable Annette LaRue  
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## Faculty Support

James K (Board) &  
 Carol Sellers Herbert

## Ellis

Continued from page 1

The Court Room at the new building will be complete with audience seating for 25, a 12 member jury box, clerk's desk, witness box, a Bench (with space for three judges), and counsel tables. It will also have skylights which are already in the building, but were covered a number of years ago.

"When I graduated, I didn't know what to do when I got to Court. I hope this will make it possible for future San Joaquin College of Law graduates to feel more comfortable when they enter a 'real' courtroom for the first time," stated Ellis.

San Joaquin College of Law truly appreciates the foresight and support that has been given by Bud and Marci Ellis. It is because of people such as them that the College can continue *Building on Success*.

## Borba...

Continued from page 1

Today they farm about 16,000 acres in Fresno, Kings, and Madera counties. While cotton is still the big crop, growing between 7,000 and 8,000 acres of fiber each year, today, Borba Farms also grows garlic, onions, tomatoes, bell peppers, sugar beets, wheat, alfalfa, and occasionally vegetables such as lettuce and broccoli.

Borba Farms diversification and continued expansion has led to vertical integration. In the early 1980's a cotton gin was purchased. Their ginning company, Westfield Ginning Co. located just west of Five Points, processes about 30,000 bales a year.

Borba Farms makes a difference for San Joaquin College of Law. To say the least, the new Student Lounge will be much different than the current one—the parking lot! It will give students a place to relax, take a break from their studies, build camaraderie and commiserate in their struggles through the law school experience. The Bookstore will provide much needed space for books, supplies, and the like.

Thank you, Borba Farms, for all you do for San Joaquin College of Law!

*Gifts received since previous donor listing in January 1995 Inter Alia. The annual listing by donor gift category will be published in the December 1995 issue of Inter Alia.*

# Honorable Hollis G. Best to Speak At '95 Graduation in May

SJCL Commencement Ceremonies for 1995 will be held at the William Saroyan Theatre on Saturday, May 27 at 3:00 p.m., followed by a reception in the foyer.

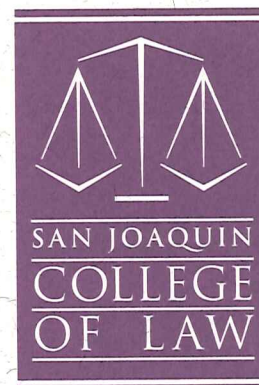
This year's keynote speaker is the Honorable Hollis G. Best. The retired Presiding Justice of the Fifth District Court of Appeal, is now the U.S. Magistrate at Yosemite.

As SJCL's twenty-fifth year approaches, its alumni will grow to nearly 650, after the class of 1995 is awarded their Juris Doctor degree.

The Commencement Ceremonies are open to the general public. For more information, contact Catherine Cline, SJCL's Coordinator for Special Events and Development.

*Inter Alia* is published by San Joaquin College of Law and is designed for students, alumni, faculty, staff, donors, and friends of the Law School. Please address all correspondence to Editor, *Inter Alia*, San Joaquin College of Law, 3385 East Shields Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726. Telephone 209/225-4953

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