

# Inter Alia

VOLUME VII, NUMBER 4

September 1996

*The Newsletter of  
San Joaquin  
College of Law*

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## New Beginnings...

### 1996-97 School Year Underway

San Joaquin College of Law's 1996-97 school year started on August 12 with First-Year Student Registration. The first-year class contains 72 members.

Delta Theta Phi, a law fraternity, organized a blood drive in conjunction with Linda Hightower at the Central California Blood Center during First-Year Registration. Judy Barron, Delta Theta Phi's Dean, says, "It was a fairly successful day. Twenty people tried to give blood, thirteen of them were able to do so. Thanks to all who tried to give blood.

The blood center needs 200 pints of blood a week for the 32 hospitals that it serves." Delta Theta Phi members also

had the opportunity to meet most of the first year class while seeking donors.

The second, third and fourth year students registered on Wednesday, August 14. The second year class consists of 48 students. The third year class is comprised of 30 students, and the graduating class is 57 students.

Registration for the Fall 1996 Paralegal class also took place on Wednesday, August 14. This session's class contains 25 students.

Classes for the first year students started with Orientation on Monday, August 12 and classes continued through Thursday. Regular scheduled classes started Monday, August 19.

## Happy Endings...

### Fall 1995-96 Paralegal Class Graduation

Friday evening, August 16, marked a milestone for the Paralegal class that started in August 1995. Their graduation reception marked the last significant social event at the soon to be "old school." Fifteen graduates, along with family, friends and SJCL Paralegal faculty members, joined together to celebrate the year's accomplishments.

Tom Armstrong, bankruptcy instructor and SJCL Law alumnus ('89), gave the commencement address. Sean Peterson was the class valedictorian. Pam Ramirez, SJCL Paralegal Program Director, presented the

class and read student biographies. Closing remarks were made by Legal Analysis instructor Patricia Harter, a SJCL Paralegal Program ('91) and a SJCL Law ('95) alumna.

Two members of the class started in SJCL's law program this past week. Several graduates are already employed in paralegal positions, and at least two have plans to start law school in Fall 1997.

We wish the 1995-96 Fall Class of the SJCL Paralegal Program much success in their future careers. Congratulations to all!

## Inside...

- Faculty Profile: David Camenson
- Upcoming MCLE Programs
- Construction Update



## Message from the Dean

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### Janice L. Pearson

It's actually really and truly time, the move looms on the horizon. The target date is the week of November 18. After 10 years of surviving in a totally inadequate facility, students, staff, and faculty will finally have the home they deserve.

Everyday the inadequacies of the current building impact SJCL's academic program and services to students and alumni. The lack of a student lounge and



indoor study areas has caused students to gather in the library, often rendering it difficult for study. Insufficient classrooms has caused SJCL to limit electives and enrichment activities. Books have spent years in storage for lack of space in the Library. Archived files are two miles away in a storage complex causing long delays in obtaining information sought by students and alumni and wasting staff time. Staff offices are packed with boxes and equipment for which there is no other home.

The new building will improve the effectiveness of every aspect of the school's operation. More importantly, the new building has been planned to meet the school's needs for many years to come. Nearly one-third of the constructed office space will not be immediately occupied, also allowing for development. A variety of classroom sizes were designed.

With classes split between afternoons and evenings, the number is adequate for more

diverse electives and community activities. While SJCL does not plan to grow dramatically in terms of student enrollment, growth in the range of activities will be possible and enable SJCL to remain a valuable community resource.

The classrooms are cabled for student use of a laptop computer for note taking. The building is pre-wired for future electronic media - at a much lower cost than any retrofit. This is to be home for a very long time.

So many people have put so much effort into this project - the donors; William Patnaude, the architect; the Board of Trustees; DMC Corporation and other contractors; Clovis Community Bank; and all the SJCL staff. But two people have done more work behind the scenes than anyone can imagine-- Linda Raiche, Director of Operations and Kristin Robinson, Associate Dean for Advancement.

Linda is at the building site for two to three hours every working day--bird-dogging every step of the process. She helped plan the layout, thought about future computerization,

*... continued on page 8*

Construction Update Photos





# Gifts

Thank  
You!

San Joaquin College of Law gratefully acknowledges all those who have generously supported the Law School. To you, we say thank you for all that you do for the College. This list contains donations received by SJCL from May 23, 1996 to August 13, 1996.

## Building Fund

Bancroft-Whitney  
Mahlon and Karen ('96) Buck  
Clovis Community Bank  
Peter M. Cowper ('88)  
Katherine E. and Timothy Donovan  
Sara Hedgpeth-Harris ('86)  
Denise M. Kerner ('83) (Faculty)  
Anne Kinzel ('87)  
Lisa J. Nilmeier ('87)  
Janice L. Pearson (Faculty)  
Leon S. Peters Foundation  
Pete P. Peters Foundation  
Linda S. Richardson ('95), In Memory of  
Millie Adams  
Kristin M. Robinson (Staff)  
J.D. Scheidt  
Mr. ('95) & Mrs. Eric H. Schweitzer  
Stephen B. Sefton ('78)  
Howard and Peggy ('93) Shainberg  
The J. Martin Winton Special Collections  
Fund

## In-Kind Gifts

Anonymous - Online Software Package  
Richard (Faculty) and Missy Cartier -  
Computer Equipment

## Law Review

Dale Cunningham (LR Board)  
Mark D. Miller (Faculty)

## Endowment Fund

Sam W. Speake ('87)

MCLE

at  
SJCL

Preview of

Fall Schedule

San Joaquin College of Law's MCLE Department has several continuing education seminars planned for the Fall to help area attorneys and CPAs earn their needed credit hours. Seminar flyers will be coming out soon. Contact Sydney Fournet at 225-4953 for more information.

## Winning at Contractual Arbitration

Video Replay

Co-Sponsored with The Fresno County Bar Association  
and The Rutter Group

September 24; 6:00 - 9:15 p.m.

3 MCLE Hours

Video Panel Moderator: Richard Chernick

## Substance Abuse

David Hill, M.S., M.F.C.C.

October 8; 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

or

October 9; 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

1 MCLE Hour applied to  
Substance Abuse

## Demystifying Tax Liens & Levies

Dennis Bean, CPA and  
Ronald Henderson, Esq.

October 22, 29, and November 5

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

9 MCLE Hours

## Family Law Developments and Strategies Program

Co-Sponsored with Matthew Bender  
Kathryn Kirkland, Esq., Diana  
Richmond, Esq., Ira H. Lurvey,  
Esq., and Richard M. Cartier, Esq.

November 2

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

7.25 MCLE Hours

with .75 applied to Law Practice  
Management and  
.25 applied to Legal Ethics

## Legal Ethics

Video Replay

Co-Sponsored with The Fresno County Bar Association  
and The Rutter Group

December 10

6:00 - 9:15 p.m.

3 MCLE Hours applied to Legal Ethics

Video Panel Moderator:

James W. Wagstaffe

## 1996-97 Law Review Editorial Board

Samuel D. Kylo ..... Editor-in-Chief  
Judith Wright ..... Executive Editor  
Karen Spinardi ..... Production Editor  
Teresa Juarez ..... Managing Editor  
Brian Sottile ..... Notes and Comments Editor



## Class Action Party a Success

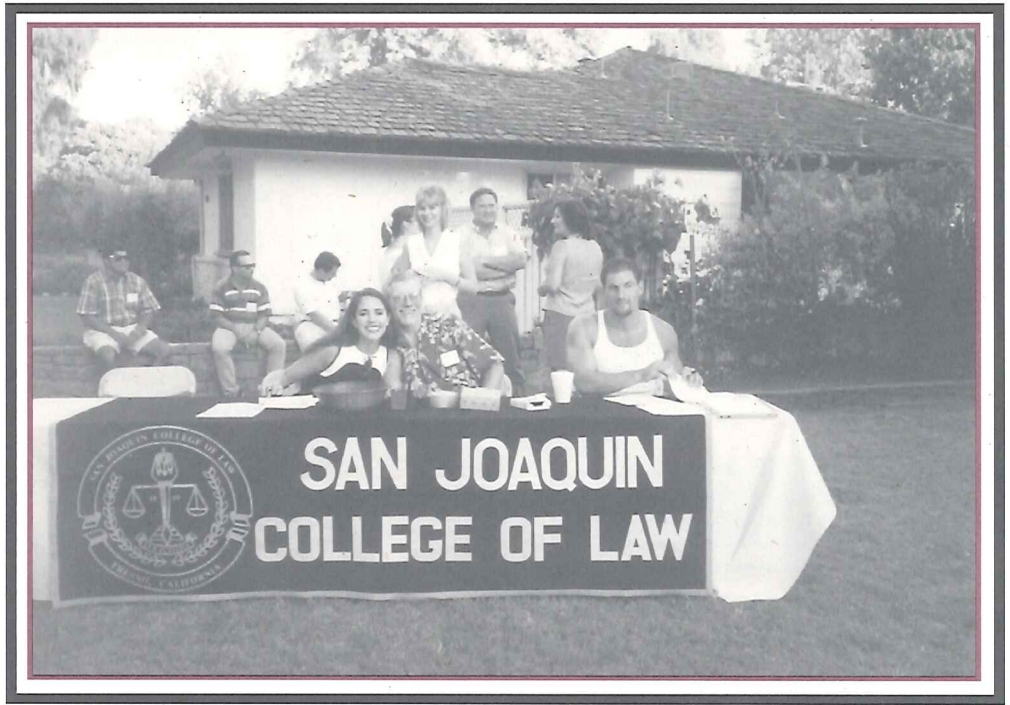
The Class Action Party took place on August 23 at Professor Larry Artenian's home. This annual back-to-school party sponsored by SJCL's Student Bar Association welcomes first year students to San Joaquin College of Law. It also gives everyone a chance to get to know each other and have fun before the school year gets underway. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres started at 6:30 p.m. with a teriyaki chicken and beef kebob buffet dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Thanks to this year's raffle donors for their generous donations of great raffle prizes. The following merchants donated items for the raffle: Adam's Rib, dinner for two; La Posada, dinner for two; The Corner Cafe, dinner for two; DiCicco's Italian Restaurant, one large pepperoni pizza; Clovis Travel Service, four \$25.00 raffle tickets; Club Cigar, two \$15.00 gift certificates; The Alternative, one hour massage; Clovis Stationery, one DayRunner; Harris Construction, power tools; The Pines Resort, 2 week-day nights in a chalet; CEB, *Sales and Leases Commercial Code of California*; BarPassers, two \$500 gift certificates; and BarBri, gift certificate.

Thank you, Larry for the loan of your home. A good time was had by all. ♦

## June Swearing-In Ceremony

The Swearing-In Ceremony on June 6, 1996 took place in the City Hall Building. Justice James A. Ardaiz presided over a packed house of people who watched San Joaquin College of Law and other law school graduates take their oath. Among the event's speakers were James M. Petrucelli ('89) representing the Fresno County Bar Association and Barbara Greaver ('92) representing the Fresno County Young Lawyers Association. ♦



## Building on Success

### UPDATE

As of August 31, 1996, the Building on Success Campaign has raised over \$470,000. SJCL has heard from hundreds of alumni, board members, friends of the College, Clovis Community members, and Clovis High School alumni.

We thank those individuals and organizations who have unselfishly given of time and gifts.

To those that we have not heard from, you still have time! While we are well on our way to the \$750,000 goal, we need your assistance.

Each gift will be memorialized on the Builders of Success Commemorative Wall. Following are giving categories. In addition, there are still naming opportunities available.

Donation Category	Plaque Size
\$100,000 +	36" x 36"
\$50,000 - 99,999	18" x 36"
\$25,000 - 49,999	18" x 18"
\$10,000 - 24,999	18" x 9"
\$5,000 - 9,999	9" x 9"
\$3,000 - 4,999	4.5" x 9"
\$1,500 - 2,999	2.25" x 18"
\$500 - 1,499	2.25" x 9"
\$100 - 499	Donor Case Name Listing

As we see the new facility will soon become a reality, we would ask you to assist SJCL to continue *Building on Success*.



## SJCL Staff Profile

### Sydney Fournet

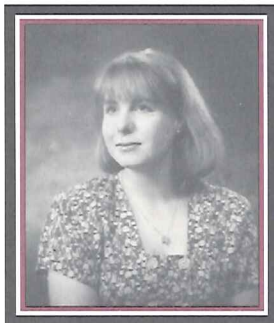
#### MCLE/Advancement Administrative Assistant

"The move to the new building is really exciting for San Joaquin College of Law and the MCLE Program," Sydney says. "We'll have our own room with tiered seating and a reception area. No more registering people in the hallway!"

Sydney, a Spring 1994 SJCL Paralegal Program graduate, has worked in the MCLE Department since November 1994. She received her B.A. in Liberal Studies from CSU, Fresno in 1992. Her previous work experience includes two years with Valley Trade Shows.

"For Valley Trade Shows, I did what I do now. Then it was for industrial, boats and plant maintenance shows, and now its for attorneys, paralegals and CPAs."

Changes have occurred for the MCLE Program. Michele Creighton, the first MCLE Coordinator, has left SJCL to continue her own education. The MCLE Program was merged with the Advancement Department upon her departure. "Michele is gone, and we miss her," Sydney continues. "SJCL, however, still aims to provide quality continuing education. We have not cut back on the pro-



gram, just changed the players." Christie Ballard, Association Dean for Advancement and Catherine Cline, Coordinator for Development are taking on Michele's programming duties.

"What I do," Sydney says, "is keep the seminars running smoothly--everything from materials to cookies." Sydney also handles registration, before and during a seminar, supplies and coordinates all the mailings.

"The best part about my job is the satisfaction I get when the seminar goes well, and I know I had a hand in it. I also like hearing the good comments we receive from participants in our programs. My big-

gest challenge is Marathon Month! Each January we run several seminars to help a compliance group get their last minute required hours."

"On a more personal note, the move to the new building will provide me with my first 'door' while at SJCL. My desk is in a general work

area now with a fair amount of foot traffic.

Also, the new building itself is really neat — the skylights, moldings, stenciling, and much needed space will really benefit the Law School."

Sydney enjoys reading, dancing and watercolor painting in her spare time. She also likes to spend time with friends, especially Edward Carrillo ('95), her longtime boyfriend.

"I wish people knew how much work goes on behind the scenes at SJCL in all the departments. I see all the work that MCLE and Advancement does to make seminars, special events, etc. look effortless. They're not, but we wish they were!"

Thank you, Sydney for all you do for SJCL! ♦



### San Joaquin College of Law Staff

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CATHERINE CLINE  
*Coordinator for Development*

KAREN BESECKER  
*Administrative Assistant*

SYDNEY FOURNET  
*Administrative Assistant*

## Alumni. . .

Mark your calendars for the  
SJCL Alumni Reception which will be held  
immediately before the Annual Fresno County Bar  
Association Dinner (January 17, 1997).



## SJCL Faculty Profile

### David Camenson

"I haven't seen the new building, but I believe it has to be an improvement!" Dave states.

He started teaching at SJCL during the Fall 1992 semester. His prior experience included providing seminars at Baker, Manock & Jensen. He was encouraged to call Dean Pearson about teaching after clearly explaining a tax issue to a SJCL student who was also a Baker, Manock & Jensen law clerk. A year later, he was an

## T G I F

### "After Hours"

The attendance was great at the last TGIF get-together! After taking July and August off, the next TGIF will be on Friday, September 27 at the Silver Dollar Hofbrau (333 E. Shaw) at 5:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to meet informally with fellow alumni--a request from the Alumni Surveys. Come and "catch up" with alumni and find out what's going on at the Law School between *Inter Alia* issues. For more information, contact Catherine or Karen at 225-4953. ♦

Make your reservation

by calling

**225-4953**

instructor at SJCL. "What I enjoy most about teaching is the interaction with students, staff, other faculty and administration," Dave says. "It's a good group of people, so teaching is easy."

"Another reason I like being associated with the Law School is participating in its activities," Dave says. "Faculty meetings, committee meetings, and, oh yeah, the Spring Banquets."

Dave received his B.A. in Political Science and Economics from UCLA in 1980. In 1985, he received a J.D. and a M.B.A. from Indiana University, Bloomington. During this time, he also worked simultaneously as law clerk, ran a book distributing company, served as a teacher's assistant for an anti-trust economics professor and drafted the diagrams for the air conditioning/heating conduits for all the buildings on the Indiana University campus. "I knew I only had one chance to read through the materials outside the classroom," he says, "going to class was studying for me. I could not afford to miss class."

"I chose to go into law rather than business because as a law clerk, I also used a lot of my business background, but at the book distributing company, I did not use much of my law background. Also, the timing was important. It was the early 80s and business wasn't doing well at the time."

Dave's initial interest in the study of law started at a young age. "My grandfather spoke of lawyers with such distrust when I was about 6-8 years old. I decided to learn the law so I could speak their language."

Dave is a shareholder at Baker, Manock & Jensen. His work emphasizes qualified retirement plans, tax-free exchanges, and employee benefits. Dave also serves as a Judge Pro Tem for Small Claims Court. "I believe SJCL graduates and students are shocked to see me on the bench in a judge's robe."

Dave and his wife, Juliee have four children, Matthew, 12, Mikayla, 5, Connor, 4 and Carissa, 6 months. In his limited spare time, he enjoys woodworking and back packing.

Thank you, Dave, for all you do for San Joaquin College of Law and its students. ♦

# San Joaquin College of Law

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Richard M. Cartier  
Denise M. Kerner  
Janice L. Pearson  
Sally A. Perring  
Jeffrey G. Purvis

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Robert Swanton  
Bob Wall  
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Curtis Wong  
William M. Woolman  
E. Robert Wright



## Law Alumni Profile

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### Hon. Gary Austin (‘76)

*by René Sample (‘88)*

The Honorable Gary S. Austin is a respected Fresno County Superior Court trial judge, currently assigned as a trial judge in Department 73. Not too long ago, he was just another student at San Joaquin College of Law struggling to balance law school and work and then anxiously awaiting bar exam results. Judge Austin was in one of the first graduating classes at SJCL. In fact, the school was only 2 years old when he applied upon the advice of one of his professors at CSU, Fresno. At that time SJCL had received quite a bit of publicity for its unique night school program and reputable founders, specifically the (now) Honorable Oliver W. Wanger, United States District Judge, the late Honorable Daniel B. Eymann, Fresno County Municipal Court Judge and attorney John Loomis. After reading an article describing San Joaquin College of Law, Professor George Diestel suggested that Austin, a talented debate student, consider a legal career and attend San Joaquin College of Law. Judge Austin was raised in Fresno, graduated

from Hoover High School and was studying Speech Communications at Fresno State when Professor Diestel made the suggestion that started his legal career.

It was in 1972 that Austin joined over 65 other students to be part of the third first year class at San Joaquin College of Law. Only 15 of his original first year class graduated, but those graduates have been part of the strong foundation of quality lawyers that helped SJCL develop its reputation for providing an excellent education and producing reputable attorneys. When Austin graduated from SJCL in 1976, the school had not yet had time to earn its now coveted reputation. Local law firms were skeptical of hiring from his class. However, Judge Austin’s strong ties to the community, excellent writing skills and enthusiasm for litigation made him the perfect candidate to fill the opening as the law clerk and court crier for Judge Crocker of the United States District Court.

In 1977, Judge Austin’s interest in litigation led him to the Federal Defender’s Office and later that same year to the Fresno County District Attorney’s office. He remained at the D.A.’s office for 8 1/2 years until he was appointed by Governor Duekmejian to the Municipal Court. Judge Austin was a natural judge. He developed his trial skills as a tough district attorney. The needed people skills he perfected teaching various law classes at Fresno City College while a district attorney. He was elevated to the Superior Court by Governor Duekmejian only two years later.

When Judge Austin was sworn in as a Superior Court Judge in July 1988 at age 37, he was ready to make a difference. He has used his impressive trial and people skills in juvenile court, family court and as a trial judge. He is now looking forward to the new responsibilities he will face as a result of his recent reassignment to the very challenging calendar of Family Law Court.

Judge Austin hopes the knowledge and insight he has gained as a husband and a father, combined with his experience as a jurist, will help him to make significant contributions to the Family Court system and its litigates. Judge Austin married his long-time sweetheart Lori in 1985. Lori is a Operations and Assistant Manager for Everen Securities. She is working part time this summer to devote more time to their precocious four-year-old son Brice. Judge Austin is well known for his commitment to both his work on the bench and to his family. He arrives at work by 6:30 a.m. nearly every morning and dedicates himself to his courtroom and his litigants, but he tries to leave the office by 5:00 p.m. so that he can dedicate the rest of his day to his family.

San Joaquin College of Law is proud to call Judge Gary S. Austin one its first and finest and he is similarly proud of SJCL. Judge Austin is confident that SJCL is well on its way to future ABA Accreditation under the admirable guidance and strong leadership of its Board of Trustees and Dean Janice Pearson. San Joaquin College of Law appreciates Judge Austin’s encouragement in its journey toward accreditation and wishes him all the best in his new assignment to the Family Law Court! ♦

## SJCL Participates in Seventh Clovis All-Class Reunion

On June 22, 1996, Clovis High School held their Seventh Ten-Year All-Class Reunion.

Dean Jan Pearson spoke at the Class Stones Dedication Ceremony. The Clovis High School class stones from 1902 to 1969 are now placed in the Veteran’s Memorial Square between the Clovis Veteran’s Memorial Building and the “Old Clovis High School” — SJCL’s new campus.

SJCL also participated in the Reunion parade that took place before the Dedication Ceremony. After the ceremony, members of SJCL’s Advancement Department led guided tours of the renovation “work in progress” inside the building. Lots of stories were shared by the graduates including the one about the Volkswagen Bug that drove up the ramps to the second floor. Some 100 Clovis High School graduates visited their former campus and viewed plans for its renovation. ♦





## News Briefs

### New SBA Treasurer

Linden Lindahl (3rd year Law) was chosen as 1996-97 Student Bar Association Treasurer in a special election this summer. Congratulations Linden! ♦

### Entertainment '97 Books Available

Again this year, Joan Lassley, Law Coordinator, will have Entertainment books for sale to benefit the Building Fund. This valuable coupon book will save you money in restaurants and hotels, as well as on movie and event tickets, and products. The books are \$35 and checks need to be made payable to "Entertainment." Call Joan at 225-4953 to order your book now. ♦

### SJCL Placement Service Still Available

Whether you are looking to hire or be hired, remember San Joaquin College of Law's Placement Service. For more information, please contact Pam Ramirez at 225-4953. ♦

### SJCL Staff Changes

Best wishes to Debbie Archer, Paralegal Administrative Assistant, who left SJCL in June. Thank you Debbie for all your work for SJCL.

Farewell to Terri Rogers, SJCL Law Librarian. Terri is joining her fiancée on the East Coast. Best wishes for your future, Terri. Thanks for all you've done for SJCL.

Welcome to Kathryn McTigue-Floyd, SJCL's new Law Librarian. Kathryn joins SJCL from the Fresno County Law Library. Welcome to SJCL, Kathryn!

Kristin Robinson, Associate Dean for Advancement has accepted a position at the College of the Sequoias in Visalia. Congratulations on your new position!

A big welcome to Christie Ballard, the new Associate Dean for Advancement. Christie is a 1996 SJCL law alumnae and a past Student Bar Association President. ♦

## Dean's Column

...continued from page 2

meets constantly with specialty contractors, arranged interior color selections, and just plain constantly asks questions. In her spare time, she has also planned the physical move.

Kristin has been the moving force behind the Capital Campaign--the effort to raise the funds to make the building happen. Kristin organized the effort, designed the brochures that detail the need, talked with hundreds of people, and a thousand other tasks. In her two years at SJCL, Kristin has seen more funds raised for the school than in all previous years combined. Sadly for us, wonderfully for her, Kristin is leaving SJCL in early September to become Foundation Director at College of the Sequoias. She leaves behind a task well done, and we will miss her.

When SJCL moves into the Clovis building in November, it will be in great part thanks to the efforts of these two people. ♦

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**Fresno, CA 93726-6968**

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