

Spring 2000

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# SJCL Inter Alia

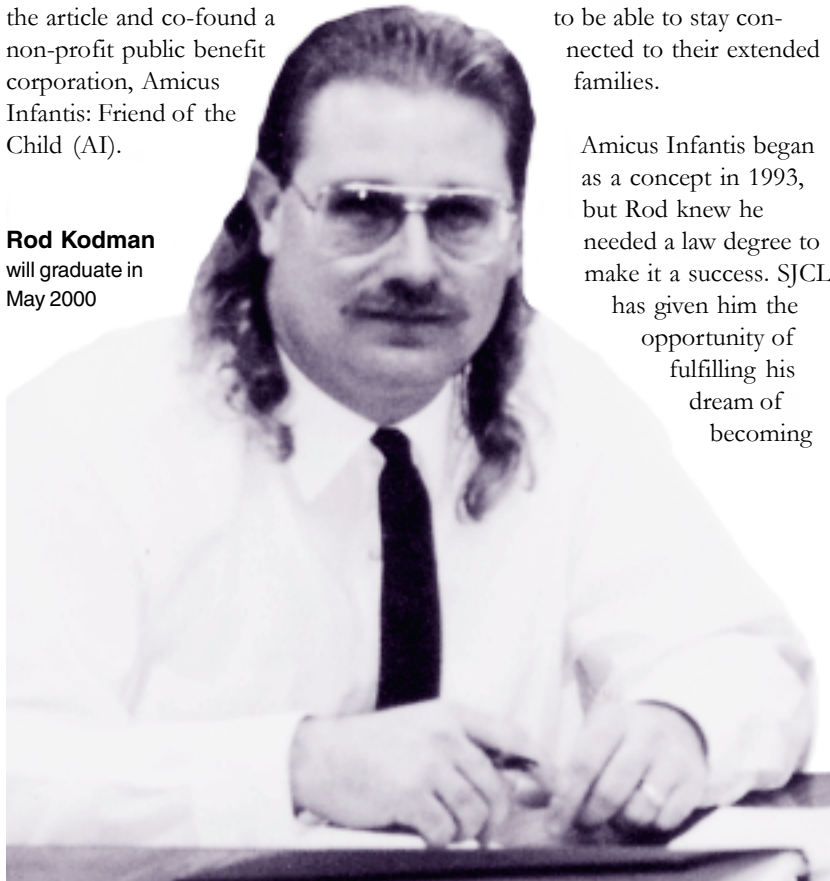
San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

## SJCL student gets published

*Rod Kodman's excellent article published in the University of California Davis Journal of Juvenile Law and Policy*

SJCL student, Rod Kodman, recently saw his work on the pages of the *University of California Davis Journal of Juvenile Law and Policy*. His article "Re-Victimizing Innocent Victims: How California Violates the Constitutional Rights of its Abused and Neglected Children," appears in the Winter 2000 issue. A passion for children's welfare led Rod to write the article and co-found a non-profit public benefit corporation, Amicus Infantis: Friend of the Child (AI).

**Rod Kodman**  
will graduate in  
May 2000



Rod spent several years of his youth as a foster child getting an inside look into the pitfalls of Child Protective Services (CPS) and the California Child Welfare Service System (CCWSS). He and his wife were foster parents to a "high risk" child who was languishing in the foster care system. Through his experiences, Rod saw a need for foster children to be able to stay connected to their extended families.

Amicus Infantis began as a concept in 1993, but Rod knew he needed a law degree to make it a success. SJCL has given him the opportunity of fulfilling his dream of becoming

an attorney. He started in the Merced College Paralegal Program, completing 30 units in one year, and then began taking classes at SJCL. During his first year at law school, he co-authored and presented proposed legislation to California State Senator Dick Montieth which would establish visitation rights of siblings and extended family members of children in foster care. This theme was continued in his article published in the UC Davis Journal.

His article focuses on two issues: "Do children under social services jurisdiction have an unrecognized Constitutionally protected liberty interest in maintaining contact with their siblings, as well as immediate and extended family members?" and "Are children under the jurisdiction of the California child welfare system denied their Constitutionally protected due process rights to the care and companionship of their extended family?" Rod concludes that children have a Constitutional right to see their extended family and that many foster children are denied that right under the current system that CCWSS uses.

This article helped create AI. AI also focuses on prosecution of parents by CPS. When CPS believes a parent is

# An alumna makes her mark

*Beth Holck's hard work has paid off with a new position in Los Angeles at Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hayes, and Handler*

**B**eth Holck, a 1996 graduate of SJCL, was recently transferred to the Los Angeles office of Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hayes, and Handler, one of the top 100 law firms nationwide, because of her excellence and dedication at their New York office.

After graduation Beth moved to New York in support of her ex-husband while he pursued his Master's degree. Expecting her stay in New York to be only a year, she worked for temporary agencies. When her divorce occurred, she took a temporary paralegal position with Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hayes, & Handler.

Her first project was indexing 250 boxes of files from a difficult bankruptcy case. Armed with only a pencil and legal pad, alone in a windowless room, she began sorting through boxes. Each contained 2,000 to 4,000 unidentified and unorganized invoices. Realizing that the faster she completed this project, the faster she could move on to a room with a view, she began working diligently. The two things keeping her going were the relationships she developed with the staff and the appreciation demonstrated by the firm. She completed this overwhelming project in a mere seven weeks.

The determination she showed in her first project earned her a full-time position with the firm as a paralegal. During her two years with the firm,

she had the glamorous job of reviewing and indexing even more documents. Beth spent her few free moments talking with Kaye, Scholer attorneys. She explained that she was a California Bar member and volunteered to assist with research and writing projects. Due to her hard work and management skills, Beth was promoted to Senior Legal Assistant.

This gave her access to more substantive opportunities.

Beth's "big break" occurred when she successfully coordinated a client's response to a Department of Justice

second request in a pending international merger. Typically a second request takes 60-80 days, but the

client's time frame allowed for only 14 days. When the response was completed on time, the firm took notice. Unfortunately, Beth would have to practice law for three years in California before she could sit for the bar in New

York due to her non-ABA degree from SJCL. The firm solved that problem by making her an attorney in their California office starting January 24, 2000. Her dedication paid off so that, hopefully, she will never index again.

"Armed with only a pencil and legal pad, alone in a windowless room, she began sorting through boxes."

## SIXTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 16, 1999, the SJCL Alumni Association held its **Sixth Annual Christmas Party** for children in long-term foster care. The 65 children sponsored for this event received gifts from Santa and enjoyed partying with the always entertaining Chief Elf and MC Kofi Sotiropoulos. Many of the Fresno Falcons hockey players were also in attendance, passing out posters, signing

autographs and talking with the kids about the importance of reading and school.

The Alumni Association would like to thank everyone who made donations to insure a fun and memorable party for the children: Fox 26's **Kopi Sotiropoulos**, **Fresno Falcons** Hockey Organization, **Foster Farms Dairy** for donating milk, and **SJCL Alumni**.



### Board of Trustees

**Douglas Noll, J.D.**, Chair; **Hon. James A. Ardaiz**, Vice-Chair; **John Loomis, J.D.**, Treasurer

Ross Borba, Jr.; Richard Caglia, J.D.; Hon. Jane Cardoza; Edward D. Fanucchi, J.D.; Hugo Gomez-Vidal; James K. Herbert, LL.B.; Dr. Howard Loewen; William Lyles; Kendall Manock, J.D.; Elizabeth O'Neill, J.D.; Hon. Robert Oliver; Susie Osterberg; Wanda L. Rogers; Dr. Vivian Vidoli; David Weiland, J.D.; Sara Widener-Brightwell, J.D.

# Staff milestones

*SJCL recognizes the dedication of Pam Ramirez, Jill Waller-Randles, and Denise Kerner*

**P**am Ramirez, Jill Waller-Randles, and Denise Kerner have served SJCL for the last 16, 15, and 10 years respectively. They have seen SJCL come from its humble beginnings to the respected law school it is today and plan to continue to serve SJCL in its continuing growth. SJCL recognized their dedication and achievements by giving each a plaque of appreciation.

Pam, Director of the Paralegal Program/Placement, fondly remembers having Jan Pearson as a neighbor long before she started at SJCL. Pam remembers heading to her office on her first day at SJCL, seeing the staff in their grubbies painting the hallway. The hands-on approach of the staff and faculty were crucial to the success of SJCL. Pam was instrumental in the constant remodeling of the Shields facility by coordinating contractors, and painters. “I watched my children and SJCL grow up together.” Pam plays an important role, effecting positive changes in student lives, whether she encourages them when they face problems or helps them find employment through the Career Resource Center that she directs.

Jill, Chief Financial Officer, has seen the accounting of the College go from handwritten journals to computer databases. Not only have the tools she uses become better over the years, but

also her office furniture has improved. Jill remembers using a box of wine glasses for a credenza. Every time the College had an event her credenza would disappear so the College could use the glasses. When the event was over, Jill would remake the box of glasses into her credenza. “Now my furniture doesn’t move no matter how many events SJCL throws,” she says with a grin about her current furniture. As many students know all too well, tuition is a major obstacle when attending law school. In the days before WASC accreditation, Jill personally worked with the majority of students to overcome these financial barriers. Jill found that work very rewarding.

Denise, Professor of Law, graduated from SJCL in 1983. She directs the First Year Research and Writing program, teaches Professional Responsibility, and supervises the Small Claims Advisor’s Office.

After law school, she went on a 3-week trip to Kenya. She clerked at the 5th District Court of Appeal for 2

years, and then worked at the Fresno City Attorney’s Office for 4 years. In 1989 Jan Pearson asked her to become a member of the adjunct faculty for SJCL. One of the great moments in teaching for Denise is seeing a student struggling to



understand the material suddenly “get it.” “The moment a student suddenly understands an idea or concept-when you can see it in their face-that is when teaching is at its best.”

When interviewed each woman expressed how important it is to her to see students achieve their dreams. They desire to see SJCL grow and become an even greater presence in the community. Pam, Jill and Denise are excellent examples of the dedication the faculty and staff have to the students of SJCL.

## Full-Time Faculty

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

## Adjunct Faculty

Russ Akins, Marc C. Ament, Hon. James A. Ardaiz, Tom Armstrong, Jesse J. Avila, Barry J. Bennett, Jeff Bird, Sal M. Blanco, Stanley A. Boone, Peter S. Bradley, Tim Buchanan, Hon. A. Dennis Caeton, David M. Camenson, Chris Campbell, Michael Carrigan, Jeff Carter, Ken Carver, Jonathan B. Conklin, Andrea DeShayes, Denise DiMascio, James E. Durkee, John P. Eleazarian, Thomas J. Georgouses, Christine A. Goodrich, Hon. Richard Goodwin, Sara Hedgpeth-Harris, Ronald A. Henderson, Kim Herold, Elizabeth Karby, Kathi K. Kesselman, Heather Kruthers, Jim Ledbetter, Robert A. Mallek, Michael P. Mallery, Hon. Vincent J. McGraw, John McGregor, William McLaughlin, Mark D. Miller, Douglas E. Noll, Hon. Lawrence J. O’Neill, Deborah D. Owdom, Vickie Panagopoulos, Harry Pascuzzi, Rosendo Pena, Toni Porter, Duane R. Ruth-Heffelbower, Russell K. Ryan, Victor Salazar, Rose Safarian, James I. Shepard, Michael Seng, Michael Slater, Robert Swanton, David Weiland, James Wilkins, Patti L. Williams, Curtis Wong, E. Robert Wright

# Students become attorneys for the day

*La Raza Law Student Association staged a mock trial for Allensworth School*

By **Hugo Gomez-Vidal**

La Raza Law Student Association President

On Friday, March 24, 2000, forty children from Allensworth School participated in a mock trial as defense attorneys, prosecuting attorneys, witnesses and jurors. The children were 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The mastermind of this mock trial was Ricky Tripp, Vice-President of La Raza and a third year student at San Joaquin College of Law. Ricky worked hard to make this event a success.

The children who participated worked on the scripted mock trial for several days. Their hard work showed as the kids performed impressively in the courtroom. The case was civil conversion. It was up to the students to decide which strategy was best to get a verdict in their favor. Allensworth school was selected to



Forty children from Allensworth School participated in the mock trial

participate because there are concerns about high drop-out rates and the lack of students attending college.

This school is located in a rural area and many of the children come from low-income households.

This was a rare opportunity to travel to a big city and to visit a law school.

La Raza tried to make a positive impact in the lives of these children by showing them that becoming an attorney is attainable and that a

mock trial can be a fun experience rather than a terrifying one. Later that evening, the kids were thrilled to see parts of their performance on television as KSEE 24 NEWS captured the event.

A few days after the mock trial, La Raza received many letters from the children indicating their desire to become lawyers. Most of the children thought the experience was a lot of fun and really cool. La Raza Law Student Association recognizes that when people are put in a position to influence others in a positive way, especially young children, it would be wasteful not to seize the opportunity.



Counsel for the plaintiff confer before giving their final argument.

## Staff

**Janice L. Pearson**, Dean; **Sally A. Perring**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; Lawrence M. Artenian, Professor of Law; **Richard M. Cartier**, Professor of Law / Family Mediation Center Director; **Denise M. Kerner**, Professor of Law / Small Claims Supervisor; **Jeffrey G. Purvis**, James K. and Carol Sellers Herbert / Professor of Constitutional Law;

**Jill Waller-Randles**, Chief Financial Officer; **Kathryn McTigue-Floyd**, Library Director; **Pam Ramirez**, Director, Paralegal Program / Director, Placement Services; **Joyce Morodomi**, Admissions Director/Registrar; **Gwen Watt**, Financial Aid Director; **Mark Enns**, Director of Recruitment & Public Relations **Joan Lassley**, Law Program Coordinator / Facilities Administrator; **Mary Felkner**, MCLE Coordinator; **Maureen Hayes**, Assistant to Chief Financial Officer; **Patricia Smith**, Financial Aid Officer; **Tom Chacon**, Accounting Assistant; **Ken Coyle**, M.I.S. Director; **Tara Phelps**, Assistant Librarian; **Lonzetta Hightower**, Receptionist; **Rick Rodriguez**, Maintenance Supervisor, **Bruce Krotter**, Bookstore Manager

# Generous donation

*SJCL is a proud recipient of over 2,000 books from the Frank J. Creede Jr. Public Law Library*

The SJCL library recently accepted a very special donation from the Frank J. Creede Jr. Public Law Library. This donation consists of over 2,000 volumes of old English, Canadian and American case reporters. Some of the titles include the King's and Queen's Bench Decisions, Courts of Chancery Reports, British Ruling Cases, and American Annotated Cases.

Due to space problems at the County Law Library, this collection had been in County storage for at least ten years and, therefore, was unavailable for use. By donating the collection to the Law School, the county law library could assure that the collection would be maintained and accessible to county residents. Many of the delicate volumes suffered from less than ideal storage conditions. A few

were so damaged by mold that they were beyond repair. By placing the undamaged volumes in our collection and salvaging those volumes that were repairable, we were able to save the majority of the collection.

As we were dealing with our own space problems, but determined to find a way to accept this valuable collection, we received a call from an alumni working with Deloitte and Touche. Allison Gong said that because their office was moving to a new location, some of their furniture was no longer needed. This was a wonderful opportunity for the school to get some newer furniture for staff offices and classrooms. In addition they donated fourteen beautiful eight-



foot shelving units which fit perfectly along one wall of our upstairs reading room. This new shelving now houses our new collection.

We would like to be able to afford secure shelving to house the most delicate volumes behind glass. For the time being we request that users exercise extreme care with the resources and ask for help when accessing the materials.

# Scholarship recipients

*Congratulations on being awarded scholarships at the Spring Banquet.*

**Hugo Gomez-Vidal, Kristine Kelly, Michelle Pepper, Kim Raven, Ricky Tripp**  
Leon S. Peters Leadership Awards

**Suzanne Golden & Jeff Bohn**  
Mirviss Alumni Scholarship

**David Moreno**  
Ernest S. Kinney Scholarship

**Nida Niravanh**  
Brown Scholarship for Women

**Geoff Adalian**  
Moradian Memorial Scholarship

**Alex Peltzer**  
Herbert Scholarship

**Kira Chronister**  
Woman Lawyer Scholarship

**Gary Brunsvik**  
Founders' Scholarship

**Deborah Boyett, David Schneider, Cynthia Arroyo**  
Student Bar Scholarship

**Julie Wittwer**  
Family Law Scholarship

**Rod Kodman**  
LeRoy Long Memorial Scholarship

**Dianna Setoodeh**  
Bus. Journal R & W award

**David Tew**  
"Legal Edge" Consumer Advocate Scholarship

**Nida Niravanh**  
Delta Theta Phi Scholarship

**Suzanne Golden**  
Delta Theta Phi Scholarship

## ELECTION RESULTS

*Congratulations* to the 2000 SJCL Alumni Association Board of Directors:

### President

Priscilla Wright Craft

### Vice President

Michelle Oleksa

### Treasurer

Patricia Harter

### Secretary

Linda Richardson

### Board of Trustees Representative

Sara Widener-Brightwell

### Members

Mario DiSalvo

David Moeck

Eileen Fystrom Diemerly

Melissa White

A special *Thank You* to the 1999 SJCL Alumni Board for their hard work and dedication to the Alumni Association.

# Spring Banquet



**Ernest S. Kinney** (Law '75) presenting the Ernest S. Kinney Trial Lawyer Scholarship.



**Hal Bolen, Dave Camenson, and Rene Lastreto** performing "Bar Review Mambo #5."



(L-R) **Jeff Owen, Liz Owen, Lisa Bennett, Erin Rhames, Trisha Beckstead, and Daniel Beckstead**, enjoying the festivities.



**Lee Lockhart**, Managing Editor of *The Business Journal*, presents the Research and Writing Award.



**Hugo Gomez**, next year's SBA president, enjoys the evening with **Ricky Tripp**. Both were Olmos Scholarship recipients.



**Erica Mercado**, a second year student and Olmos Scholarship recipient, with her famous "pre-finals" smile.



**Nancy LeVan**, outgoing SBA Treasurer, and **Dianna Setoodeh** celebrate Dianna receiving the Business Journal's Research and Writing Award.



(L-R) **Michelle Oleksa** (Law '99), **Rich Oleksa**, **Kathleen McGurty** (Law '99), and **Melissa White** (Law '96), pose for a group shot "alumni style."

# Alumni - you asked for it...

The MCLE survey that you completed last year indicated that you were most interested in attending Advanced Civil Trial Skills programs for continuing legal education credit. We listened and the programs are now scheduled. You won't want to miss these great programs and distinguished speakers.

For more information on these or any SJCL MCLE programs, please call **Mary Felkner**, (559) 323-2100, Fax: (559) 323-5566

## Advanced Civil Trial Skills series

### Summary Judgments

3 MCLE Hours, \$169, Tuesday, April 25, 2000, 6:00 - 9:15PM

#### Speaker

Judge Stephen Kane

### Hearsay: The Cardinal Rules Everyone Violates

3 MCLE Hours, \$169, Tuesday, May 2, 2000, 6:00 - 9:15PM

#### Speakers

Judge Wayne Ellison, Lisa M. Martin, Justus C. Spillner

## MCLE department offers variety of programs

Whatever your interest - Trial Skills, Family Law, or Bankruptcy - we have a program for you!

### Family Law - Issues, Procedures and New Laws

3 MCLE Hours, \$169, Thursday, April 27, 2000, 6:00 - 9:15PM

Topic	Speaker
Policies and Views From the Bench	Judge James M. Petrucelli
Temporary Restraining Orders and Ex Parte Procedures	Commissioner David Kalemkarian
Domestic Violence and Its Effect on Custody and Visitation Issues	Kimberly Nystrom-Geist
Property Reimbursement/ Transmutation Issues	Dorothy A. Carroll
The Importance and Ramifications of the Date of Separation	Trudi G. Manfredo

### Fundamentals of Bankruptcy Law

7 MCLE Hours, \$195, Friday, May 12, 2000, 8:30AM - 5:00PM

#### Speakers

Dennis Bean, Peter Carroll, John Eleazarian, David Jenkins, Patrick Kavanagh, Rene Lastreto, W. Richard Lee, Trudi Manfredo, Beth Maxwell Stratton, Hon. Whitney Rimel, Riley Walter, Michael Wilhelm

For more information on these or any SJCL MCLE programs, please call **Mary Felkner**, (559) 323-2100, Fax: (559) 323-5566



# Alumni profiles

*The year 2000 is the Twentieth Anniversary of the graduation of the Class of 1980 and the Tenth anniversary of the Class of 1990. Throughout the year, we will be letting you know “where they are now.”*

## 1980

### Ronald Henderson

Upon graduating from SJCL, Ron Henderson did independent contract taxation work while he pursued his L.L.M. at McGeorge School of Law. He received his degree in June of 1982 and went to work for the firm of Blumberg, Sherr & Kerkorian. Two years later, he and Jim Peloian created Peloian & Henderson. In 1986, Ron returned to Blumberg, Kerkorian, Seng & Ikeda for two years. In January of 1988, Ron joined Forrest and McLaughlin, which recently transformed to Forrest, Henderson, Sloan & Davis. His practice has always focused on taxation and the attendant business transactions.

Ron is married to Chris Knox, a professor of psychology at College of the Sequoias. Ron's daughter, Erin, is a freshman at Bullard High School and an award-winning Irish dancer.

The family attends Erin's performances and exhibitions. Ron also enjoys golf and tinkering with computers, having recently networked all their home computers.

Ron says the years in law school were some of the fastest years of his life. He was working full time at the IRS and going to law school. He says it felt like his brain was a sponge and the teachers were pouring in knowledge.

Ron taught the Taxation class in the Law Program from 1984 to 1991 and was a teacher and coordinator of the Graduate Tax Program for a similar period. He continues to teach tax-related classes on an ad hoc basis.

### Gregory Myers

After law school, Greg clerked for Eldridge and Newman. In 1983, he opened Myers & Overstreet with Dave Overstreet. They have been going strong every since, currently numbering 6 attorneys. The practice emphasizes insurance defense litigation. In addition, they defend public entities and school districts in state and federal court. For several years, Greg has served as Litigation Counsel for Defense Technology, a principal manufacturer of pepper spray and other non-lethal devices used by law enforcement nationwide. As a result, Greg has supervised litigation throughout the country.

Greg is admitted to the Fifth District Court of Appeal, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. He taught for four years at the Hastings College of Trial Advocacy and for several years in the SJCL Paralegal Program.

Greg's wife, Reda, operates Great Destinations, a travel business specializing in golf vacations. Needless to say, they enjoy playing golf. They have two grown daughters. Tammy works at a bank in Southern California. Amey teaches second grade in the Clovis School District and is married to current SJCL law student, Nick Zinkin. Greg made it clear that he is immensely proud of both his daughters and sons-in-law.

Law school confirmed to Greg that success is 95% perspiration and 5% inspiration. The first year, he was scared to death. The second year, he had sort of figured out what he needed to learn. The third year was a blur. And the fourth year, he just wanted out as fast as possible.

### Philip Tavlian

Phil worked with Blumberg, Sherr & Kerkorian for three years after graduation from SJCL. In October 1983, he became a staff attorney for the Fifth District Court of Appeal. For 13 ½ years, he worked for the Honorable Justice Robert Martin. He currently works for the Honorable Justice Tom Harris.

Phil married Linda Alexander in September, 1985. Linda is a tax auditor for the State Board of Equalization. They have one son, Alex. Their main family activity is keeping up with Alex's school activities; Alex plays soccer, Little Hoopsters, and Babe Ruth baseball. They also like to travel to the coast and Southern California.

Phil is active in his church, the First Armenian Presbyterian Church. He served on its 100th Anniversary Committee. More recently, Phil was a member of the 19th Congressional District's Local Legacies Committee. This committee pulled together important Valley historical material for the Library of Congress' bicentennial celebration.

As to law school, Phil remembers constantly taking notes and working as a proctor in the Library. In 1979, his class recreated the first murder trial in Mariposa County for the 125th anniversary celebration of the County Courthouse. Phil played the defendant!!! (In real life, the defendant was found guilty and hung immediately from a tree outside the courtroom.) Phil also remembers the adventure a contingent of SJCL students had moving the Library from the school's first home on the Fresno Pacific University campus to the Shields Avenue building.

# Alumni profiles from page 9

## Loretta Wichowski

Most of Loretta's life as a lawyer was spent in her own practice in Visalia. In 1993, she became the first Staff Attorney for the Tulare Department of Aging. She developed the program for services to the aging, including handling cases of all kinds ranging from entitlement problems to property disputes to elder abuse. She also created and delivered training seminars for Tulare County employees working with the elderly. Loretta retired in 1995.

Loretta is married to Gary Dunn, a Systems Analyst for the *Visalia Times Delta*. Their daughter works as a paralegal for Fielder, Fielder & Fielder in Visalia. One son is an actor and singer in New York City who recently sang at Carnegie Hall. One son works for the City of Visalia. Loretta is active in community volunteer work, loves to play with computers, and follows her son around the country to enjoy his performances.

Loretta says she loved law school—she loved learning. She developed friendships in law school that still exist. She remembers the younger students being terribly worried about getting jobs, but she was just having the time of her life!

## 1990

### Todd Barsotti

While attending law school, Todd clerked for the firm of Emerson & Yrulegui. Upon graduation, he accepted an associate position with the firm, becoming a partner in 1996. In 1997, the firm became Emerson, Corey & Barsotti. In 1999, the firm opened an additional office in Madera. A graduate of the Class of 1999, Clark Haman, just joined the firm. Todd's practice is almost

exclusively insurance defense and employment litigation.

Todd has two young daughters, Taryn and Megan. Aside from spending lots of time with his kids, Todd is getting back into competitive golf. He has been the Club Champion at Sunnyside Golf Club three times. He is also a member of the St. Agnes Men's Club, a group of professionals who organize 4-5 fundraising events each year for St. Agnes Hospital.

For some reason, Todd's clearest memories of law school are two back-to-back first year classes - Monday, Torts with Professor Pearson followed by Tuesday, Civil Procedure with the Honorable Judge Oliver Wanger.

### Gregory Tanner

For the first six months after passing the bar, Greg worked for Tuttle & McCloskey doing public sector labor law. In July 1991, he moved to Los Angeles to join Green & Shinee. There Greg did exclusively public sector labor law work principally for peace officer unions, including the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs. In late 1993, Greg opened his own office, first in Los Angeles, and subsequently in Fresno, where he conducted a general practice.

By late 1996, the lure of Los Angeles was too much and Greg returned to Green & Shinee. In his current practice, Greg represents peace officers throughout the administrative investigation and disciplinary process and may follow a case from the Internal Affairs investigation of an officer's conduct, through an administrative hearing if discipline is imposed, to judicial review by way of Writ of Mandate and even appellate review.

Greg's wife, Graciela, is now a U.S. citizen. She teaches music and is completing her B.A. at California State University Northridge. They

love the social amenities of the Los Angeles area, plus the beaches of San Diego and Santa Barbara and the LAKERS!

Greg says law school was fun in some respects. His class was a very close-knit group that got along very well. He was working full time so the years sped past. He appreciated the small classes where there was a great deal of interaction with the professors. He felt this was a much better learning environment than the huge classes he left behind at University of Nebraska College of Law.

### Donna Tarter

Upon graduation from law school, Donna first worked with Steve Barnes in Hanford, doing criminal law, as well as some family law. After three years, she decided she wanted to do only criminal work and opened her own office. She has held a succession of contracts with Kings County handling indigent criminal, dependency and juvenile cases. She handles all types of criminal cases, currently working on a death penalty case. As a result over the years, she has obtained a great deal of trial experience. She is currently the coordinator of the attorneys in Kings County handling indigent criminal cases. She also serves on the Kings County Law Library Board.

Donna's husband is a commercial painter. They have two children, a son 18 and a daughter 15, as well as a menagerie including a dog, a cat, a parakeet, a horse, and five rabbits. Most of their free time activities center around the family. The enjoy ocean kayaking, dirt biking in the desert, and water skiing.

Donna remembers her classmates as a great group. Her children were ten years younger then and she was commuting to school from Hanford, so social time was minimal.

# Alumni updates

**Charles Brian Hendrix (Law '95)** is working for the California Environmental Protection Agency. On May 28, 1999 Charles was appointed by Governor Gray Davis to be his Undersecretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency. This is the number two position in an agency of approximately 5,000 people overseeing the protection of California's public health and the environment. Charles and his wife Karen have two children, Keelin and Anne.

**Gerald R. Lewis (Law '81)** and wife Kathy have four children, Jennifer Lewis, C.M.T.; Brenda Lewis, Esq.; Traci McKoane and Rhonda Martinez; and four grandchildren. Gerald is currently practicing on his own.

**Larry Stewart (Paralegal '86)** is Treasurer of the Fresno State Tip-Off Club and a Women's Basketball volunteer.

**Cheryl Kay Turner (Law '97)** resides in Lakeport, California and works for Indigent Representation Administration which provides public defenders to Lake County. She has two daugh-



**Mark Enns**  
Director of Recruitment & Public Relations.

# New Staff

Mark Enns has joined SJCL's staff as Director of Recruitment and Public Relations. This includes serving as Editor of *Inter Alia*. (Note the cool new look!)

Mark holds a B.A. in Marketing and Management from Fresno Pacific University. He previously worked as a graphic designer for the Fresno Metropolitan Museum and Pollstar Magazine and most recently as Creative Services Manager for World Cash Providers, Inc.

ters; Devon Ragan and Heather Driscall, and a son, Darin Driscall.

**Charlene Bullock (Paralegal '83)** is Office Manager for Parichan, Renberg, Crossman & Harvey Law Corporation. Charlene just completed a year as Treasurer of the San Joaquin Association of Legal Assistants. She has two children; Robert Lacey, Jr., and Brian Lacey along with a miniature long-haired dachshund.

**Anne Kinzel (Law '87)** works for the Department of Public Health and will

graduate from Iowa State University in May 2000 with a Master Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies.

**Lynette Mehrten-Hecker (Law '95)** and her husband became the proud parents of a baby girl, Brynn, this last November. Lynette currently works for the law office of David J. St.Louis.

**Lisa Souza McIntire (Paralegal '94)** was promoted to Legal Department Manager over 18 stores in four western states for Fry's Electronics, Inc.

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unfit, it immediately moves toward prosecuting the parent. Suddenly, it becomes the duty of the parent to show fitness. Then, a battle ensues between CPS and the parents over care of the child.

As designed, when CPS moves towards determining if parents are fit, AI would step in to be the legal voice of the child. This gives the child a say in what he thinks is in his best interest. Rod sees AI as a way for children to have their opinions heard in court -

without an inherent conflict of interest or hidden agenda.

AI services would be billed on a need basis. Rod believes that "no one should be denied service due to cost." Lower income families would receive services pro bono or at nominal fees whereas higher income families would pay fees according to their financial ability to pay. Parents faced with losing their children and wanting AI services would be screened using psychological evaluations, polygraph tests, and a review by the board

before being accepted as clients. Being a non-profit organization, AI would hire a full-time advancement person to seek funding from public and private sectors.

Rod credits Professor Rich Cartier, Professor Jeff Purvis, Professor Dave Camenson & wife Linda, SJCL alumna Michelle Oleska, and Janna Trevisanut, for his article and organization. "Without the involvement of these people neither my article nor AI would have happened."

## All class reunion

SJCL is hosting an All Class Reunion for Juris Doctorate, Paralegal, and Tax Alumni.

### Date

Saturday, September 16, 2000 from 5-9PM we will gather for festivities, dinner, and school tours, in celebration of our 30TH Anniversary.

### Get involved

To make this event a success we are looking for two volunteers from each graduating class to represent their class. If you are interested in helping, please contact Joan Lassley at 323-2100.

## Mark your calendars

### Free hot dog feed

The SJCL Alumni Association is sponsoring a **Hot Dog Feed** with drinks and snacks on the grounds of the Law School for all students in anticipation of finals and the bar. Come by Monday, April 24, 5:30-6:30PM and talk to Alumni Association members. Find out how you can become involved in the Alumni Association.

### 2000 SJCL Law & Taxation Graduation

May 27TH, 2000  
William Saroyan Theatre  
700 M Street  
Fresno, California  
For more information, call Pat at 323-2100

## Write us

Write us about what you are doing. It's a great way to reconnect with old friends and classmates. Include your graduation date & program (i.e. J.D., Paralegal, or Tax Law), current address, family information, recent accomplishments, and any other information or photos you would like to provide. Then send us your information by fax: (559) 323-5566, email: [info@sjcl.org](mailto:info@sjcl.org), or mail it to: Mark Enns, SJCL, 901 5th Street, Clovis, California 93612.

## Wish list

SJCL is in need of some new computers. If you have a Pentium II or better computer that you would like to donate please contact Ken Coyle at 323-2100.

## Correction

In the December 1999 issue we inaccurately listed Leah R. Cole as certified by the State Bar of California as a Social Security disability law specialist. She is certified by the State Bar of California as a workers' compensation specialist.



San Joaquin College of Law  
901 5th Street  
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