

Spring 2010

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A Party 40 Years in the Making

September 14, 2010 will mark the 40th anniversary of the first day of law school for the first entering class of San Joaquin College of Law.

By Robin Leppo, Director of Institutional Advancement

e are celebrating our proud tradition of providing excellent legal education to the Central Valley and our promising future of continuing that tradition. Since its beginnings, SJCL has seen nearly 2,000 students walk though its doors, all of whom, as alumni, can claim a part of the law school's success!

To commemorate this special occasion, the law school plans to celebrate in grand fashion the weekend of September 10-11, 2010. This milestone celebration will be marked by three keystone events: an alumni/guest only cocktail reception on Friday, September 10, 2010, the Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament on

Saturday, September 11, 2010, and ending with the Barrister's Ball gala celebration open to all alumni, the legal community and supporters of SJCL, on Saturday evening. This will be a remarkable opportunity to showcase SJCL and its profound impact, past, present and future, on the legal profession and community at large. Mark your calendars-invitations will be sent soon with full details on all the events taking place. To keep you updated, SJCL has created a special section on its website dedicated to the 40th anniversary events. Go to www.sjcl.edu/40th and check often for anniversary details. We have also included a page where you can leave "law school memories" and upload pictures from the past and present. Come share in the many



Committee members at work: Greg Miskulin (Law '05), Erica Camarena (Law '02), and Brande Gustafson (Law '09)



SJCL "moments and memories" that have been 40 years in the making!

The logo emblazoned across this edition of the Inter Alia has been adopted by the school and the 40th anniversary planning committee as the official 40th anniversary logo, and has and will continue to appear prominently on all publications throughout this year.

As part of the 40th anniversary celebration, the law school has enlisted the help of many of our alumni to take part in a special fundraising campaign for the annual fund this year. Our goal for this campaign is to raise \$40,000 to commemorate our 40th anniversary. By now all alumni should have received a letter from a classmate requesting your support for a class gift and inviting you to attend the 40th anniversary celebration in September. Thank you to all our Class Agents and Representatives, whose leadership in signing letters and making their own personal gift towards their class goal, has inspired so many others to give.



Never doubt what a single decision can create! In 1969, now District Court Judge Oliver Wanger, John Loomis, and Judge Eymann agreed to pool their efforts to create a law school in Fresno. They filed Articles of Incorporation, consulted with the California Committee of Bar Examiners, wrote a catalog, divided teaching responsibilities, persuaded other community leaders to join them on the Board of Trustees, and announced the formation of San Joaquin College of Law. Who knew how far it would go.

It's 40 years later.

S JCL has moved from unaccredited to state-accredited to regional accreditation. The process was recently completed for regional accreditation to be renewed for an extended period of time. SJCL has moved from three classrooms on the campus of the Fresno Pacific University to a rabbit warren of classrooms and offices on Shields Avenue to a spectacular building that shouts that it is a law school and impresses every visitor.

Last night I emceed the Alumni Panel Forum. This is an opportunity for prospective students to see the endless possibilities of a law degree -"One Degree, A World of Options." Participating on the panel were Ivan Altamura, Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Mike Villines, Tom Campagne, private practitioner, agricultural and employment law, Elizabeth Egan, Fresno County District Attorney, Sherri Flynn, private practitioner, patent law, the Honorable Houry Sanderson, Fresno County Superior Court Judge, Melissa White, Senior Deputy City Attorney and Legal Advisor, Fresno Police Department, and Gary Winter, private practitioner, business and real estate law. The diversity of directions which a legal



education could take one was clear. All expressed the tremendous satisfaction they derived from their work –particularly from helping other people.

For me, the experience was stunning. It reminded me of the tremendous gifts possessed by the people of the San Joaquin Valley. It reminded me of the enormous role SJCL has played in opening doors for those gifts. Not only have over 1200 graduates benefited, but also the community has gained immeasurably from the talents and commitment of these and so many other graduates. It was hard for me to imagine how different the San Joaquin Valley would be without them. After the presentation, several prospective students approached me. They were literally bursting with excitement. Each had identified with a different member of the panel. They could see their own opportunities opening before them. I returned to SJCL this morning with an even greater commitment to keeping these opportunities available.

I wonder if Judges Wanger and Eymann and our dear John Loomis – still a member of the Board after all these years – foresaw what their decision would mean for the San Joaquin Valley? As of May 2010, unbelievably, I will have had the privilege of being the Dean of SJCL for twenty-five years. I wonder what it will look like 25 and 40 years from now? I wonder what those excited faces I saw last night will have accomplished?

For me, the 40th Anniversary Celebration in September 2010 is a gigantic family reunion. The Reunion Committee has tried to design several events – something to fit everyone. I hope everyone can join us at one or more of the events being planned. I would love to see you, hear about, and celebrate your accomplishments!



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Elizabeth O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Breakfast Fills SJCL

"We were mobbed!" Those are the words of SJCL Dean Jan Pearson in the aftermath of this year's Race Judicata and the Elizabeth O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Breakfast. But she was quick to acknowledge it was a "friendly mob."

By Missy Mckai Cartier, Public Information Officer

County Superior Court Judge Brad Hill, and Fresno Superior Court Judge Steven Kane, along with several alumni and many runners.

The breakfast was moved to the hallways and a classroom in the law school due to fear it might rain. Those showers never showed, but the atmosphere inside the building was so welcoming with people chatting and visiting among the tables that the decision has been made to keep the O'Neill Breakfast indoors each year. Dozens of alumni used the opportunity to reconnect with former classmates, professors, and friends. Other changes slated for next year will insure the flippers can keep up with the demand for flapjacks.

The money raised, funds a scholarship to support female heads of households who are attending San Joaquin College of Law. Mrs. O'Neill's life was at first focused on the five children she raised before completing her law degree from Boalt Hall in 1969, but her concern for children lasted her entire life and lives on as her legacy. She was one



of the founders of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Fresno County and the Fresno Council on Child Abuse Prevention.

Mrs. O'Neill's work for children continues in the form of a book drive for Temperance-Kutner and Pinedale Elementary Schools. Nearly 200 books were collected. Sixth graders at Temperance Kutner dove into their share of the bounty of books. Pinedale Elementary School Librarian Carol Lewis appeared stunned when the boxes of books arrived there, telling SJCL staff "you have no idea what this means." She went on to explain the contribution represents, in her words, "twice what I was able to buy this year." Less than a week later, she sent a letter of thanks to the law school, enclosing a copy of a book plate honoring Mrs. O'Neill, which will be placed in each book received.

The Scholarship Breakfast would have been impossible without the help of dozens of volunteers. They include the Clovis Kiwanis, who fired up the food again this year. More than a dozen teens from the Clovis High Leadership Class provided major muscle, handling everything from table moving to food delivery and sign twirling. Several members of the O'Neill family, including Elizabeth's great grandson, travelled from Southern California to assist in serving the food. Clovis City Council Mayor Pro Tem Jose Flores also went above and beyond for the breakfast, stepping up to scramble eggs when the pancake flippers were overwhelmed. SJCL students provided major support as well, including helping with the major clean-up afterwards. More than six dozen pictures of Race Judicata and the O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Breakfast are available in an album on the SJCL Facebook page.

Full-Time Faculty

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

Adjunct Faculty

Jesse Avila, Art Baggett, Barry J. Bennett, Alison Berg, Hristo Bijev, Hal Bolen, Andreas Borgeas, David M. Camenson, Dan Casas, Hon. Hilary Chittick, Lisa Coffman, Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Phil Cronin, Mark Cullers, Matthew Farmer, Christine Goodrich, Jason Hamm, Shannon Harding, Kathi K. Kesselman, Abigail Leaf, Jeremy Lusk, Jeff Manning-Cartwright, Deanna Martinez, Kathy McKenna, William T. McLaughlin II, Mark D. Miller, Douglas E. Noll, Kimberly Nystrom-Geist, Timothy O'Connor, Rose Safarian, Rene Sample, Gary Sawyers, Michael Sheltzer, Michael Slater, Jacqueline Yates

2010 Race Judicata

Unsettled weather did not dampen record crowds at the 2010 Race Judicata.

By Sherrie Flynn (Law '05)

Imost the entire week beforehand weather forecasters predicted it would rain on Saturday, the day of the annual Race Judicata Fun Run. It rained during the day on Friday. It poured Friday night. Usually, the prediction of rain is enough to scare off many less serious runners, let alone rain itself. I mean, who really likes to get soaking wet when running?

But inexplicably, the prediction and the actual raindrops on Friday did not dampen the spirits of the record number of participants who turned out for Race Judicata on Saturday, February 20, 2010. Instead, they threw caution to the wind (or, more appropriately, to the rain), and came out in droves. Almost 150 people registered on race day alone - an unprecedented number - bringing the total number of race entries in the Kids Run, the 2 Mile Walk/Run and the 5K Race to just shy of 520. And for the best news yet, the race participants, spectators, and numerous volunteers did not get wet. The Man above, once more, smiled down on our not-so-little race, and we were not dampened at all.

The weather, as it turned out, was just about as perfect as it could be from a runner's perspective - overcast and cool. That, coupled with the nearly flat-as-a-pancake course (pun on the Elizabeth O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Breakfast, which also took place that morning in conjunction with the race, intended), made this year's Race Judicata Fun Run, a particularly fast race, one at which a runner could set a personal record (PR). Although the author is unaware of any course records being set that day, there were some PR's, and many stellar performances, by walkers and runners alike.

Andrew Sanchez of Clovis was the overall male winner in the Kids Race



with a time of 1 minute, 29 seconds, and Alisa Newton of Dinuba was a close second, just a few yards behind him with a time of 1 minute, 34 seconds. However, in another exciting race, two 3-year olds (or under), were just a step or two apart, with Derek Puglizevich and Bebe Glynn finishing with times of 2 minutes, 38 seconds and 2 minutes, 39 seconds respectively. Great race, kids!

In the 2 Mile Run, Joshua Orosco finished first overall male with a blazingly fast time of 10 minutes, 1 second, and Annelis Walker of Clovis was certainly not walking when she won the overall female prize with a time of 12 minutes, 26 seconds. The highly decorated James McCall of Fresno again won the overall male walker trophy, in a time of 18 minutes, 9 seconds, and the first overall female in the walk division was Karen Sims of Clovis with a time of 23 minutes, 42 seconds. The renowned Roosevelt Cook again almost broke 15 minutes in the 5K Runner of the Year Series Race, with a time of 15 minutes, 1 second – a 4-minute, 51-second average pace per mile! Last vear Roosevelt set a course record time in the 5K of 14 minutes, 57 seconds! Theresa Berry ran a flat 6 minute per mile pace to take the women's division with a great time of 18 minutes, 36 seconds! Congratulations to all!

The proceeds from the Race Judicata go to the Student Bar Association of San Joaquin College of Law, and Sierra Challenge Express, Inc., both non-profit charitable organizations. Sierra Challenge Express largely uses the proceeds for its scholarship fund, benefiting local college runners with financial needs.

The Race Judicata wishes to thank its sponsors, particularly Sierra Running Company, which provided numerous gift certificates for the raffle, our DJ Ben Salcido (great music, Ben!), his wife Estella, who not only volunteered on race day, but also donated raffle prizes from her own business, Salon Innovations in Clovis, and Joan Lassley, of San Joaquin College of Law, whose contributions over the years are too numerous to mention. We also wish to thank our Race Director, Ken Takeuchi, as well as the Clovis Reserve Officers, the members of Sierra Challenge Express, and the students of San Joaquin College of Law who provided the many volunteers necessary to put on this great race.

We look forward to seeing everyone again next year at the 2011 Race judicata, and will again be praying for no rain!

Donna Tarter Appointed to the Bench

By Missy Mckai Cartier, Public Information Officer

G overnor Arnold Schwarzenegger has appointed San Joaquin College of Law Alumna Donna Tarter as a Kings County Superior Court judge. Tarter (Law '90) most recently served as the County's chief contracted public defender, coordinating attorney for the Board of Supervisors, and inmate counsel for the California Office of Administrative Hearings. She replaces Judge Louis Bissig, who retired in 2009.



Tarter was named to the post in December. She

quietly took the oath of office in a private ceremony in February so she could quickly begin to fill the gap left by Bissig's retirement. However, friends and family joined her in a much more public ceremony on March 11th, when two family members helped with her enrobing. The Honorable Steven D. Barnes administered the oath of office to Tarter, who had served as an associate attorney in his law firm shortly after her graduation from SJCL.

Alumni News

Colleen Carlson (Law '99) named new Kings County counsel: First woman ever to lead county legal advisor's office.

Jerry DeMelo Jr. (Law '95), a threeyear veteran of the Superior Court, was named the first-ever Judicial Officer of the Year by the Child Support Directors Association of California. John Fennacy (Law '97) has become a partner at the Fresno office of Bakersfield law firm Klein, DeNatale, Goldner, Cooper, Rosenlieb & Kimball LLP.

Kathy McKenna (Law '99) was just selected California Supervising Deputy Attorney General.

SJCL wants to hear from you! If you have news to share such as a promotion, new job, move, birth, or marriage announcement please send it to alumni-updates@sjcl.edu and it will be published in the next edition.

The new year and a new decade are well underway while the academic year winds down. That means we are preparing to welcome this year's graduating class as fellow Alumni as they begin the transition to life after law school.

At this time of the year, we are usually gearing up for the Judy Wiseman Golf Tournament which has traditionally been a spring event. We are still getting ready for it, but this time it will be in the fall to coincide with the 40th anniversary bash for the law school. That means we have many events this fall, including Senior Law Day and Got MCLE. If you have ideas for MCLE, would like to be a presenter, or help out, let me know.

I had the pleasure of attending the Amicus Soirée, the San Joaquin College of Law Student Bar Association's annual spring banquet. It was great to see so many alumni there and it was an honor to announce this year's scholarship recipients. Congratulations again to the three winners: Carolyn T. Mirviss Scholarship, Kyle Roberson; Judy Wiseman Memorial Scholarship, Jesse Fretwell, and; Alumni Association Spirit of SJCL, Lisa Cutts.

I hope to see you at one of our events in the near future.

Sincerely, Scott Jones (Law '07) 2009 Alumni Association President

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Amicus Soiree 2010 – A Star-Studded Tribute

Glamour, glitz and gaming topped the menu at the Amicus Soiree presented by the San Joaquin College of Law Student Bar Association on March 19th.

By Ann J. Stokes, SBA Vice President

Tith the red carpet rolled out, the "stars" gathered to pay tribute to the scholarship recipients and award honorees. One could almost imagine being on Hollywood and Vine as the SJCL version of the Walk of Fame graced the entry to the Independence Room. The guest list was a "who's who" of law students, donors, faculty, staff, alumni, family and friends who came together in a fabulous demonstration of appreciation and camaraderie. Fine dining was provided by the Classic Catering Company at Six-Two-Five, and was elegantly presented with a wonderful home-style flair. The Clovis Kiwanis kept our glasses full and our spirits high while Casino on Wheels supplied high rolling entertainment. DJ Kris spun the tunes throughout the evening as the video and light show set the mood. In true paparazzi fashion, photographer Ronald D. Webb snapped photos of attendees in all their finery and captured their moments of glory during the awards presentations. The Student Bar Association wishes to express extreme gratitude for these fine contributors to a night to remember.

After a warm welcome by SBA Vice-President Ann J. Stokes, Dean Jan Pearson took the stage to deliver the much anticipated answer to the question on every student's mind..."was I selected?" Campus student organizations Delta Theta Phi, Law Students United in Tolerance and the Student Bar Association also recognized student achievement and commitment to their group's respective missions. Academic Dean Sally Perring announced several more scholarship awards including a new scholarship recognizing the ever-helpful library proctors. Gale DeLapp (Law '94), niece of Hall of Fame inductee Ernest Kinney (Law '74), awarded the Kinney Scholarship

and announced the the hope to endow the *Ernest S. Kinney Memorial Scholarship Fund* someday.

As the program continued, Alumni Association President Scott Jones, Dean Jan Pearson, Soroptimist International Representatives Joan Lassley and Carlyn Robbins, Editor-in-Chief

of San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review Karen Ray, and SBA President David Ibarra announced the remaining scholarships, awards and certificates of achievement.

Earlier in March, the students themselves selected the recipients of this year's faculty and student awards. The winners were: full-time faculty of the year, Professors Jeffrey Purvis and Larry Artenian; adjunct faculty of the year, the Honorable Jonathan Conklin; and students of the year Andy Kucera, Travis Ishikawa, Michael Varin, Naser Nekumanesh and Alexia Kirkland.

Finally, Ann Stokes departed from the program to pay tribute to Cherilynn Wortham and Karen Ray for their outstanding contributions to the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review as each served two consecutive terms on the Editorial Board for the journal.

In preparation for this event, each class worked on a gift basket to be auctioned off at the banquet. It was amazing to see the degree of student participation on these projects. Despite their rigorous schedules, students made time to collaborate on a theme and gather items representative of that theme for their basket. Fourth Year SBA Representative Alexia Kirkland's planning and perseverance on this project helped the Student Bar Association set a new record for the Spring Banquet silent auction.

At the end of the evening, gamers played their last hands, rolled the dice a few more times, took a last spin of



FRONT ROW (L-R): Jan Pearson, *Dean* and Raquel Martinez. MIDDLE ROW (L-R): Allysa Wolfe, Travis Ishikawa, Faith Lisle, Hope Lisle, and Joel Arevalo. BACK ROW (L-R): Vincente Reyes, Adrian (Mauro) Ramirez, Marla Garcia, Raquel Bautista, Sabrina Salgado, Kenny Antonetti, and Alicia Hauki.

> the roulette wheel, and collected their final handful of tickets. Six lucky winners of the ticket drawing took home various themed movie collections.

As they headed back out the way they came on the walk of fame, friends congratulated each other one more time and said their goodbyes. We gathered up the dice, stacked the chips back in the rack, rolled up the red carpet and turned down the lights. It was definitely a night to remember.



(L-R): Scott Jones (Law '07), Erik Peterson (Law '07), Teresa Petty (Law '07) Bob Abrams (Law '08) and wife Cheryl, Joan Lassley, *Staff*, and Doug Haas (Law '82)



Proto: Ronald D. Webb

Incoming SBA President Michael Varin and student Charles Palmer

Ann Stokes, SBA Vice-President



Gale DeLapp (Law '94), sits with **Marion Kinney**, wife of Ernest Kinney, as they prepare to present the *Ernest S. Kinney Trial Lawyer Scholarship*.

2010 Scholarship Winners

Alumni Association Carolyn T. Mirviss Scholarship Kyle Roberson

Alumni Association Judy Wiseman Memorial Scholarship Jesse Fretwell

Alumni Association Spirit of SJCL Lisa Cutts

Brown Scholarship for Women and Minorities Elizabeth Morgan

CCBA Scholarship Jeremiah Paul

Clovis Soroptimist Woman's Advocate Award Monica Bermudez

Ken Coyle Memorial Scholarship Daren Stemwedel

Delta Theta Phi Scholarships Scott Levy, Amanda Bishop, and Kyle Roberson

Theodore R. Forrest, Jr. Trial Advocacy Memorial Scholarship Eloise Kelsey

The Founder's Scholarship Karen Ray

Darryl B. Freedman Bar Study Scholarship David Ibarra

Kharazi Bar Study Support Scholarship Heather Pietroforte

Ernest S. Kinney Trial Lawyer Scholarship Rachel Cartier

LAWsuit Scholarship Naser Nekumanesh

Legal Edge Consumer Scholarship Michael Shaddix

Elizabeth O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Pamela Elliott

Leon S. Peters Leadership Awards Alicia Wrest, Erick Rhoan, John Migliazzo, Cherri Wortham, and Naser Nekumanesh

Robert F. and Kathryn S. Price Scholarship Michael Varin

Proctor Scholar of the Year Rachel Cartier

Albert Ramirez Bail Bonds Scholarship Ronald Weber

SJCL Student Bar Association Law Scholarships Michael Mahoney Carey Hartsock

James K. & Carol Sellers Herbert Scholarship Christina Widner

Woman Lawyer Scholarship Jonna Williams

Student Winners at Mario G. Olmos Scholarship Banquet

San Joaquin College of Law is proud to see four of the five winners at the March 6, 2010 Mario G. Olmos Scholarship Banquet hail from the law school.

By Missy Mckai Cartier, Public Information Officer

The 30th annual banquet, presented by the Central Valley Chapter of La Raza Lawyers Association, featured the Honorable Steven Vartabedian, Associate Justice of the Fifth District Court of Appeal, as guest speaker and Dr. Luz Gonzales, Dean of the College of Social Sciences at Fresno State, as Keynote Speaker.

The annual banquet celebrates the life of Judge Mario G. Olmos, who rose from humble beginnings to preside over the Parlier and Selma Courts for seven years before his appointment to the Fresno County Superior Court in 1982. He is remembered as a man who fought discrimination, was active in community organizations, and served as a mentor and inspiration to Hispanic youth.

Scholarship winners include SJCL students David Ibarra, Monica Bermudez, Gabriel Delgado, Mauro Adrian Ramirez, and UCLA student Frankie Guzman.

David Ibarra, who received his second Olmos Award by winning the Dominguez/Cajiga Scholarship, will graduate from SJCL in May. During his first year of law school, he founded a nonprofit group called "LawSUIT," which stands for "Law Students United in Tolerance." Ibarra served as President of LawSUIT and the Student Bar Association this past year.

Monica Bermudez, who received the Albert Ramirez Scholarship, will also graduate from SJCL in May. She grew up in Bakersfield, got her bachelor's



(L-R) UCLA student **Frankie Guzman** (Mario G. Olmos Scholarship), SJCL student **Monica Bermudez** (Albert Ramirez Scholarship), SJCL student **David Ibarra** (Dominguez/Cajiga Scholarship), SJCL student **Mauro Adrian Ramirez** (Michael McGonigle Scholarship) and SJCL student **Gabriel Delgado** (Michael McGonigle Scholarship).

degree from Fresno State, and becomes the first member of her family to graduate from high school or college. She is also a single mother.

Gabriel Delgado, winner of a Michael McGonigle Scholarship, is a first year student at SJCL. Along with his studies, Delgado also serves on the Firebaugh-Las Deltas School Board, which faces major challenges due to high unemployment and poverty. As the father of two sons, he encourages parents to get involved in their children's education.

Mauro Adrian Ramirez is also a first year student at SJCL who won a Michael McGonigle Scholarship. He was born in Mexico but his family moved to Reedley, where he spent his early years working the fields to help support the family. Since then, he has graduated from Fresno State, worked an apprenticeship at Central California Legal Services, and was a UMS Garabedian Fellow.

Frankie Guzman, a first year student at UCLA, takes home the Mario G. Olmos Scholarship. He grew up in an Oxnard neighborhood which was high in crime and low in expectations for its youth. Guzman uses that background to reach out to at-risk youth, including a stint at the National Center for Youth Law with a focus on juvenile justice, education, and child welfare issues.

Congratulations to all scholarship winners and to LRLA for another wonderful evening of enlightenment, entertainment, honor, and celebration.

The Role of Alumni in Admissions

Alumni are our greatest resource for guiding individuals to apply and enroll at San Joaquin College of Law.

By Diane Steel, Director of Admissions

s the Director of Admissions, I evaluate annually how a prospective student learns about San Joaquin College of Law. However hard we work at recruitment or creative marketing tools, most often it is because an alumnus or currently enrolled student cares about an individual that guides an individual to apply to and eventually enroll in San Joaquin College of Law. On behalf of SJCL I extend my sincere gratitude to all of our alumni for your support and recommendations to students to obtain a law degree from SJCL. We currently have 127 applications submitted for Fall 2010. We would like to see this number double or better yet triple by our June 30th application deadline.

An increase in prospective students translates to a larger applicant pool which leads to an academically strong incoming student body. This could lead to a higher bar pass rate and ultimately our ongoing strong reputa-

tion. I can't think of anyone more suited than one of our own graduates to encourage individuals to apply to law school. If each alumnus would make a commitment to mentor one prospective student per year toward obtaining a law degree from San Joaquin College of Law our admission goals would be met. Most of the time this happens incidentally as a prospective student meets an attorney and finds out he or she graduated from San Joaquin College of Law. With the economy depressed and the job market more difficult to penetrate, students are selecting a law school that provides support in career counseling and job placement which SJCL provides. This is all the more reason we need the help of our alumni to deliberately mentor and steward students toward our institution.

As prospective students enter the halls of the law school it is often the interaction they have with a currently enrolled student that makes the difference in their decision on where to attend. Or it is a faculty member who stops to greet them and takes the time to have a conversation about the student's area of interest in the legal field that seals the deal. Most often I am informed by incoming students that it was a personal connection with a graduate of SJCL who inspired them to pursue a law degree. Students don't care what we know if they don't know that we care!

Thank you to all of our alumni who have taken the time to connect with a prospective student and stop to take a moment to care about this person and his or her future.

Please join me in inviting prospective law students to our upcoming events: Informational Law Forums May 13 or June 8, 7–9PM LSAT Forum – May 18, 7–9PM LSAT Test – June 7 Register by May 4, 2010 at www.lsac.org

Alumni Panel Forum Focuses on Success

A prestigious panel of SJCL alumni offered their insight, experiences, and advice to a room packed with prospective law students on April 22, 2010. SJCL is grateful to each member of this panel, along with other alumni who offer their services at Law Forums each month. These efforts not only showcase the value of an education at SJCL and the prestige of our alumni ranks, but also offer an insider prospective to those hoping to follow in their footsteps.





Dean Janice Pearson stands front and center with Alumni Forum Panelists including (L-R): **Ivan Altamura** (Law '95), *Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Mike Villines*, **Gary Winter** (Law '06), *Business, Real Estate, Wills and Trusts*, **Elizabeth Egan** (Law '95), *Fresno County District Attorney*, **Tom Campagne** (Law '75), *Agricultural and Employment Law*, **Honorable Houry Sanderson** (Law '87), *Fresno County Superior Court Judge*, **Sherrie Flynn** (Law '05), *Patent Law*, and **Melissa White** (Law '96), *Senior Deputy City Attorney Legal Advisor, Fresno Police Department.*

Elevated Level

Barrister's Circle

Central California Bankruptcy Association SJCL Alumni Association SJCL Student Bar Association

Platinum

Baker, Manock & Jensen

Gold

Joan Bjorkman Lassley McCormick, Barstow et al Sally Perring Kimberly Sweidy

Silver

Janice Pearson & Jackson Grode Michael Marderosian Quinlan, Kershaw & Fanucchi

Bronze

Michel Bryant Electric Motor Shop - Richard Caglia H. Ty Kharazi Kendall & Doris Manock Robert F. Price (Tax '86) & Kathryn S. Price

New Additions

Bronze

C. William Brewer Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP

Cornerstone

Dennis & Andrea Bean The Borba Families David & Nancy Cisneros Michael & Germaine Dias Greg & Jeanne Durbin Warren & Lesa Paboojian Joanne Sanoian Gwen & Mike Watt Wells Fargo Foundation

Giving Societies

Legacy	\$1,000,000
Heritage	\$500,000
Visionary	\$250,000
Founder	\$100,000
Trustee	\$75,000
Dean	\$50,000
Barrister	\$25,000
Platinum	\$15,000
Gold	\$10,000
Silver	\$7,500
Bronze	\$5,000
Cornerstone	\$2,500

5th Annual Donor Wall Reception

On Friday, February 26, 2010, San Joaquin College of Law hosted its fifth annual reception to honor our Lifetime Giving Societies donors of the law school. This year's reception recognized 11 new additions and 16 elevations to the Donor Wall.

uests feasted on wine and hors d'oeuvres prepared by Chef Reyes Chacon of One to One catering and were serenaded by Classical Guitarist and Class of 1998 alumnus, Nicholas Schuller. Dean Pearson greeted and thanked the donors and guests for their support of the law school, and special recognition was given to former board of trustee and long-time supporter, Kendall Manock, who had recently passed away. In memoriam gifts made by Sun-Maid Growers and Deborah Coe (Law '91 and Boad) elevated Mr. Manock to the Bronze Lifetime Giving Society.

This year, SJCL wanted to especially honor those donors who were new to

the Wall or had elevated to another Lifetime Giving Society by giving each donor in attendance a small token of our appreciation for their support to the law school. A crystal, cube-shaped, paper weight etched with the school's logo and the word "thanks" in multiple languages, was given to signify our gratitude and the difference their generosity has made for the school to continue its vision of "One degree. A World of Options."

SJCL would like to thank each and every one of its supporters for your generosity and a special thank you to this year's honorees. We look forward to what the next 40 years will bring with your continued support.



Greg Hood and **Debrah Coe** (Law '91 and Board)



Warren Paboojian (Law '85) and wife Lesa with Jan Pearson, *Dean*



Hon. W. Richard Lee (Law '85) and wife Kim



Hon. Nancy Cisneros (Law '80) and husband David



Dennis and Andrea Bean



Carl Brown (Law '76) with daughter **Robin Leppo**, *Staff*, son **Patrick**, and wife **Karen Brown**



H. Ty Kharazi (Law '96) and wife Sandra with Kathy Hart (Law '77)



Nicholas Schuller (Law '98) serenaded the crowd with his guitar.

Party from page 1

If you have already made a gift towards your class goal, we thank you for your support and realize our success is, in part, due to your generosity. If you have not made a gift yet, I encourage you to take part with your fellow classmates and alumni to make your gift today. You can make your gift online, or simply return it in the envelope enclosed in this edition of the InterAlia.

Please remember a gift to the Annual Fund – no matter the size - is always appreciated.

A heartfelt 'thank you' to our 40th Anniversary Planning Committee members for your continued dedication and work to plan the greatest party that SJCL has ever seen!

Dede Agrava (Law '07) Zeppy Attashian (Law '05) Annette Ballatore-Williamson (Law '97) Mark Blum (Law '92) Erica Camarena (Law '02) Kathy Chandler (Law '94) Leah Cole (Law '92) Eddie Fanucchi (Law '95) Brande Gustafson (Law '09) Doug Haas (Law '82) Kathy Hart (Law '77) Ty Kharazi (Law '96) Chuck Magill (Law '89) Lori Mayfield (Law '94) Kathy McKenna (Law '99) Greg Miskulin (Law '05) Warren Paboojian (Law '85) Teresa Petty (Law '07) Bob Price (Tax '86) Dianna Setoodeh (Law '01) Nancy Stegall (Law '96) Connie Valentino-Parker (Law '07) Beth Waldow (Law '09) Dave Weiland (Law '92)

It is not too late to be a part of the 40th Anniversary Planning Committee! If you want to ensure you and your fellow alumni have a great time at the reunion celebration-come make your voice heard! We are always looking for all interested alumni and SJCL supporters to participate. Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at SJCL from 5:30pm-6:30pm. If you are interested in more information or want to attend this meeting please RSVP your attendance by calling (559) 323-2100 or email rleppo@sjcl.edu.

Diversity and Relevancy in a Changing Agricultural Community

The SJALR continues to remain a source of diverse and relevant viewpoint and legal analysis in the constantly changing world of agriculture.

By Lisa A. Cutts, SJALR Editor-in-Chief

n February 5, 2010 the San Joaquin Agricultural Review hosted a reception celebrating the release of Volumes 17 and 18 of the journal. Current and former Editorial Board members, writers, and donors attended an elegant event at the law school.

The Journal serves as a source of diverse and relevant viewpoints and legal analysis of the constantly changing world of agriculture. Articles in the Journal have been cited recently by the California Fifth District Court of Appeal and the United States District Court, Eastern District of California.

Volume 19 is expected to be released in July 2010 and includes articles relevant to issues currently facing the San Joaquin Valley. It includes "Oklahoma's 2009 Right-to-Farm Amendment: Extending New Protections to Oklahoma's Producers". Written by Oklahoma attorney Paul Goeringer, the article explores whether the new statutory time periods will act as a state of limitations or a statute of repose. The second article, entitled "California Producer's Liens: A Primer", was written by Fresno attorneys Riley C. Walter and Elizabeth E. Waldow in conjunction with San Francisco attorney Donald F. Drummond. It provides a comprehensive overview of the requirements for asserting a producer's lien, reviews the case law interpreting them, discusses remedies for lien violation, and lists the statutory requirements for termination of liens.

Volume 19 also features seven Comments written by San Joaquin College of Law students. Ashley Allred's Comment is "Solutions to a Stinky Problem: Congressional Legislation to Promote the Use of Cloth Diapers".



(L-R) Alicia Diaz Wrest, Assistant Editor-in-Chief, Cheri-Lynn Wortham, Notes and Comment Editor, Lisa Cutts, Production Editor, Karen Ray, Editor-in-Chief and Carey Hartsock, Managing Editor.

The issues of liability for heat-related injuries of California's migrant labor force are addressed in "California Farm Owner Liability for Heat-Related Injuries to Their Independent Contractor's Farm Worker Employees," written by Rachel Cartier.

Various facets of the current "Delta Smelt" issue in California are tackled by Brian Jones in "A Fish Out of Water: The Delta Smelt Regulated Under the Commerce Clause," and Kyle Roberson in "One Fish, Two Fish, More Fish, No Water: Granting an Exemption Under the Endangered Species Act Due to Economic Woes in the Central Valley."

Erick Rhoan explores Native American tribal sovereign immunity as it relates to the threat of agroterrorism in "What Congress Gives, Congress Takes Away; Tribal Sovereign Immunity and the Threat of Agroterrorism." Daren Stemwedel's comment, "A Fundamental Flaw in the National Organic Program: The Case for National Regulation of Organic Input Materials," argues that regulation of inputs to organic farming is crucial to maintaining the integrity and consumer confidence in produce marketed as "organic."

Ronald Weber, Jr.'s comment "Has the Daubert Decision Created a New "Pest" for California Workers involved in Pesticide Poisoning Litigation?" compares the results of applying the federal evidentiary standard under Daubert versa the California standard of Frye, and whether the difference encourages "forum shopping" in pesticide toxic tort litigation.

Also included in Volume 19 is the Comment, "Mass Meat Consumption, Human Rights and Animal Welfare: An Alternative Appeal to Federal Limitative Regulations." Written by Jessica Leigh Zaylia, a student at the University of San Diego School of Law, the comment advocates for Congress to consider its global human rights responsibilities, not just animal welfare, as a rationale for adopting limitative federal regulations for mass meat consumption in the United States.

Alumni and Faculty make Media Forays

San Joaquin College of Law is stepping out! Over the past four months, the knowledge and expertise of our faculty, alumni, and students has been showcased in print, radio, and television.

By Missy Mckai Cartier, Public Information Officer

any of those many media appearances already fill the new Multimedia Page of our website. Still, that page does not include Alumni Circle member Kathy Hart's (Law '77) interview with the Fresno Bee, Alumni Association President Scott Jones' (Law '07) interview with KFSN-TV, and others. Much of this success would have been impossible without the support, input, and fullforce effort of the Alumni Circle. Any SJCL alumnus who would like to join should contact the law school.

If you have not had an opportunity to visit the Multimedia page of our website, here's what you're missing:



Back in December, Alan Autry did two separate shows with members of the Alumni Circle as part of his "Truth on the Table" talk show on KYNO radio. Those interviews with Gary Winter (Law '06) and Christina Skaf Hathaway (Law '07) opened the door for the San Joaquin College of Law Roundtable, which debuted in January. Fresno Bee columnist Bill McEwen hosts the program as part of his "Straight Talk" show on KYNO.

SJCL Roundtable has aired Tuesdays during the noon hour, and featured Alumni Circle members Kevin Hansen (Law '85), Dede Agrava (Law '07), David Mugridge (Law '85), Rene Turner Sample (Law '88), Sheri Flynn (Law '05), Deborah Boyett (Law '01), Erin Rhames-Childs (Law '02), Lori Mayfield (Law '94), and Harry Pascuzzi (Law '86). In addition, Dean Jan Pearson has been interviewed, along with SJCL Adjunct Professor Dave Camenson. Mr. McEwen also hosted SJCL students Karen Ray (Law '10) and Lisa Cutts (Law '11) regarding their roles in the latest San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review, and interviewed SJCL student Cheri Wortham (Law '10) about her position as Case Manager of the law school's Mediation Clinic. More shows are planned as this article goes to press.

BUSINESS JOURNAL

Not only has SJCL Adjunct professor Dave Camenson appeared on KYNO, but he was also interviewed by the Business Journal in February. The article, aimed at informing business owners about changes in tax law directly affecting their bottom line, led to an information-sharing agreement between the Business Journal and SJCL. In March, the Business Journal interviewed Alumni Circle member Lori Mayfield (Law '94) as part of an article on post-employment compensation.



Alumni Circle members have also made appearances on Clear Channel's "Community Matters." Host Billie Wright interviewed Gary Winter (Law '06) on aviation law and holiday travel woes, and most recently featured bankruptcy attorney Benny Barco (Law '07). The show ran on Alice (102.7FM), KRZR (103.7 FM), B-95 (94.9 FM), Soft Rock (98.9 FM), and Big Country (102.7 FM).



This is the only media where SJCL is represented on both sides of the microphone! Sevag Tateosian (Law '08) is host of "San Joaquin Spotlight" on KFSR, which is the Fresno State station. He previously interviewed Fresno County Clerk Victor Salazar (Law '93) about his job and his decision years ago to attend the law school. Most recently, he hosted Dean Jan Pearson in an interview centered on how to prepare to enter law school and interviewed SJCL Constitutional Law Professor Jeffrey G. Purvis on issues ranging from gun control to health care reform.

And then there's...



Have you or your classmates attended any recent events at SJCL, ranging from Race Judicata to a Legacy Luncheon? Check for the photo evidence on the law school's Facebook page, where more than two hundred pictures are stuffed into albums! While Inter Alia and the webpage remain primary sources for information about San Joaquin College of Law, Facebook gives the law school the capability to post those photos within days of an event. It also allows the law school to give advance notice of events or when an alumnus is about to make a media appearance, as well as gives you a forum to post about SJCL. If you're on Facebook, become a fan of SJCL and stay connected in new ways!

Legacy Luncheons

Class of 2001

BACK ROW (L-R): Michelle Pepper, Deborah Boyett, Jeff Bohn, Hugo Gomez-Vidal, Danny Bruce, Brett Richardson, Sally Perring, *Staff*, David Tew, and Nick Zinkin.

FRONT ROW (L-R): Kira (Chronister) Ceballos, Dianna Setoodeh, Beth Best, and Janice Pearson, *Dean*.

Also attending but not pictured were staff **Joan Lassley** and **Robin Leppo**.





Class of 2002

BACK ROW (L-R): Efren Diaz-Munoz, Jarrett Cline, Erica Camarena, Erin Rhames Childs, Lillian Weiland, Tamara Smith, and Ken Jorgensen.

FRONT ROW (L-R): **Cynthia (CJ)** Secula, Janice Pearson, *Dean* and Greg Norys.

Also attending but not pictured were staff **Missy Cartier**, **Joan Lassley**, and **Robin Leppo**.

Class of 2003

(L-R): Roland Soltesz, Sally Perring, *Staff*, Janice Pearson, *Dean*, Lisa Bennett, Marjorie Bookout, and Greg Borboa.

Also attending but not pictured were staff **Missy Cartier** and **Joan Lassley**.



Class of 2004

BACK ROW (L-R): Ron Nijmeddin, Sofian Dawood, Judy Rogers, Lewis Martinez, and Mark Edwards.

FRONT ROW (L-R): Gabe Brickey, Jan Pearson, *Dean* and Maribel Hernandez.

Also attending but not pictured was staff **Joan Lassley**.





Class of 2005

BACK ROW (L-R): Nathan Miller, Mary Castro Ayala, Eric Kapigian, Greg Fox, Mary Moshrefi, Joanna Ebner, Cynthia Van Doren (Law '04), Jennifer Walters (Law '04), David Yengoyan, Janice Pearson, *Dean*, Mike Elder, and Mark King.

FRONT ROW (L-R): Sherrie Flynn, Grace Torres, Lupe Lopez-Gamboa, and Claire Carroll.

Alumni Profiles

SJCL congratulates our alumni celebrating 10, 20, and 30-year anniversaries in 2010. It has been my pleasure contacting and interviewing each of you. Thanks to those who participated in this effort. I look forward to catching up at the next milestone. -Joan Lassley, Alumni Liaison

1980 Honorable Nancy Cisneros

Judge Cisneros served the Superior Court as a Court Commissioner since April 1988. She retired March 19, 2010.

While a Commissioner she served on several boards and is looking forward to doing some volunteer work involving animals during her retirement.

A tree was planted in Courthouse Park in Nancy's honor by Fresno Center for Change, the treatment program for Fresno's Drug Court, which is her passion. Nancy was also selected the Commissioner of the Year by both the California and the National Child Support Associations, when her assignment was Family Support.

Nancy is married to David and has two dogs, Bailey & Lizzy. Nancy's brother and family live in St. Louis, Missouri, where she also has terrific in-laws.

Nancy's main interest is dogs, dogs, and more dogs! She loves reading, exercising, cooking and baking.

When asked about her SJCL memories she recalled getting all relaxed the first day of law school with John Missirlian and being snapped back to earth the next night with Judge Wanger. She remembers having to use the biology lab at Fresno Pacific University (FPU) to type their finals which meant they had to move FPU student's finals, which were dead cats staked out in dissecting trays. The three Nancys and Barbara (Nancy Cisneros, Nancy Silacci – formerly Winston, Nancy Smith, and Barbara St. Louis), thought a law firm of Nancy, Nancy, Nancy and Babs might be a good idea. She enjoyed laughing, always, with Bob Giovacchini. She liked shooting tips from Glenn Kottcamp. She believes the most important memory was learning to step outside her comfort zone to develop friendships with the absolutely best class ever to graduate from SJCL.

Glenn Kottcamp

Glenn moved back to Fresno two years ago after living in Nevada City, California, for 20 years. He maintained a solo practice there primarily handling criminal defense cases. He is now employed with the law firm of Nuttall & Coleman, working on criminal cases and doing criminal appeals and writs. Glenn is divorced with two grown children, one of whom resides in the Bay Area, and the other in Vancouver, B.C.

After being admitted to practice in 1980, Glenn was involved in extensive environmental litigation representing Save Our Streams ("S.O.S."), opposing small hydro projects throughout the state and representing the Sierra Association For Environment ("SAFE") opposing the damming of Dinkey Creek and the Middle Fork of the Kings River above Pine Flat Reservoir. In 1987, the Sierra Club gave an award to the head of SAFE and to Glenn for those successful efforts. In the mid-1980's he also received an appreciation award from the State Bar for providing low cost and pro bono legal service to those who lacked the resources to hire an attorney.

While residing in Nevada City, Glenn was a youth league soccer coach for seven years, a Little League baseball coach for eight years, and an assistant baseball coach for the Nevada Union High School Junior Varsity baseball team for four years.

His personal interests include science, especially biology, with some math and physics tossed in along with fishing, hunting, photography, cooking, and reading.

Beside the terror of the first year final exams, Glenn says his special SJCL memories are mostly about the closeness and camaraderie of the class members, and of two close friends, Bob Giovacchini and Bob Gorman, who are no longer with us. The post class group "study periods" were fun, as well as being more or less memorable.

Philip Tavlian

Phil was an associate with Blumberg, Sherr & Kerkorian from 1980 to1983. He then became a Senior Attorney at the California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District. Phil served Associate Justice Robert L. Martin from 1983-1997. While with Justice Martin he was joined by classmate, Barbara A. St. Louis (Law '80) and Robert Lindsay (Law '92). Phil then served Justice Thomas A. Harris from 1997-2008. While with Justice Harris he worked with Bethany Baker (Law '88). In 2009, Phil began serving newly appointed Justice Charles S. Poochigian with Bethany Baker.

Phil is married to the former Linda Alexander. They will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in September 2010. They have one son, Alexander, who will be graduating from Clovis West High School in June, 2010.

Phil enjoys reading and travel. He and Linda attended a Chicago taping of "Oprah" in September 2009. Phil is a past elder and current committee member of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church, Fresno. He is a former clerk and treasurer of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America. He is the president of the Armenian Theological Students' Aid, Inc., a Fresno-based scholarship organization for graduate divinity students. He is secretary for Ararat Cemetery Improvement Association, Inc. (He was recently licensed as a California Cemetery Manager and Cemetery Broker-it's a long story!). Phil is also a member of the Steering Committee, Section on Appellate Law, Fresno County Bar Association. (Phil also serves as Editor/Compiler of the Appellate Notes column in the Fresno County Bar Bulletin.)

In 1979, Mariposa County celebrated the 125th Anniversary of its historic courthouse. The Anniversary Committee invited students of SJCL to recreate the first murder trial in the Gold Rush-era courtroom. In this costume drama, classmates Barbara St. Louis, Gregory L. Myers, and Russell D. Cook portrayed the school marm, prosecutor, and defense counsel, respectively. Phil had the privilege of playing the accused, complete with whiskers and century-old leg irons. Dean C. Lauritzen, the sitting Superior Court Judge of Mariposa County, presided and jurors were chosen from the spectators at the anniversary celebration. According to the quill pen minutes of the court, the original accused was found guilty and hanged from an oak tree outside the courthouse. In 1979, the jury showed mercy and found Phil "not guilty." The "SJCL Players" then joined the visiting justices of the Fifth Appellate District at a reception in the Hospital Road home of Retired Associate Justice and Mrs. Thomas I. Coakley. The restaged murder trial is mentioned in "Mariposa County Courthouse: Shrine to Justice," a historical volume by Scott Pinkerton and Leroy Radanovich.

1990 Thomas Georgouses

Thomas started with Stammer, McKnight, Barnum and Bailey LLP as a law clerk in 1989 during his last year of law school. He became an associate upon passing the bar in 1990 and then a partner in 1996.

Thomas met his wife, Sally, as a result of a blind date arranged by fellow class member, Todd Barsotti. She stuck with him while he studied for the Bar exam. They married in 1991. Thomas and Sally have two active boys. Nick is in the 8th grade at Granite Ridge and Anthony is in the 6th grade at Fugman.

Besides work, Thomas is busy with the family. Since both boys enjoy golf it has given him a reason to play more. Thomas also coaches their baseball teams. As a family they snow ski. For several years they have rented a cabin at Lake Mary (above the town of Mammoth) where they hike and fish. They also try to squeeze in other trips and activities around their schedules.

Thomas sits on the Board of Directors for the Fresno County Bar Association and is on the Board of Directors for the Association of Defense Counsel for Northern California and Nevada. He also served on the soccer board when his boys were playing that sport.

Thomas has great memories of his time at SJCL, which includes the time and stories shared with members of his class at the Copper Pot following class most nights.

2000 Gary Brunsvik

Gary has been happily employed with Bolen Fransen LLP since January 2001. His practice areas include commercial and agricultural lending, real estate lending, real estate and general business matters. Gary has been married to Deann for 27 years. They have six children: Tyler, 25, Jessica, 24, Auriel, 22, Benson, 19, Carson, 17 and Davik, 14. Tyler and Jessica are both UC Davis graduates, Auriel and Benson are currently serving missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Auriel is in Utah (go figure!) and Benson is in Guatemala. Carson is a senior at Clovis High and Davik is an 8th grader at Clark Jr. High.

Since graduation Gary has received recognition for four years of service on the Board of Directors of the Ag Lenders Society of California.

Gary spends any free time outside the practice with family. He enjoys reading, politics and his religion. Gary is very involved with Cub and Boy Scouting. He is a supporter of the Clovis Boys and Girls Club, Board secretary of J. Reuben Clark Law Society, member of Ag Lenders Society of California and a member of Risk Management Associates.

When asked about any SJCL memories, Gary stated, "moving from Shields Ave. to the current facilities (I felt like a real law student at a real school!); studying for final exams with Craig Fry (he always carried me through!); working with Ann Roberts for two years on the Law Review; arguing with Professor Purvis (and always losing!); *International Shoe* and *Glenshaw Glass!* (I do not remember what they mean anymore, but I can't get those case names out of my head, thanks to Rich Cartier and Dave Camenson!).

Kristine Kelly

Following graduation from SJCL, Kristine went to work for Ericksen, Arbuthnot, Kilduff, Day & Lindstrom, doing insurance defense/civil litigation. She worked there for over four years. In 2004 Kristine left them to open her own practice, which pri-

marily consisted of bankruptcy work, with civil litigation on the plaintiff side. Kristine was appointed to the Criminal Justice Act Panel, where she defended criminal cases at the Federal level. After two years, Kristine thought she would trade in the freedom of selfemployment for stability and went to work for Hanna Brophy doing workers' compensation defense. Unfortunately, she was laid-off after working there for 1 1/2 years. She re-opened her private practice and went to work inhouse for Zurich Insurance Company as a contract attorney, which ended up being 7 months long, in addition to doing bankruptcy work. Kristine currently maintains her private practice in the areas of bankruptcy and civil litigation.

Kristine is happily committed to her partner of 3 years, Steven Parisi. She is the mother of two wonderful and active boys, Brian (16) and Peter (10). Peter was born the November preceding graduation.

Kristine stays busy with her boys' football, working on renovating her 100 year old house, gardening, and maintaining that delicate balance of work and family life.

Kristine has been involved with Project First Step and gave a seminar at the Senior Law Day at SJCL in 2008.

When asked about SJCL memories she stated, "There are so many! Professor Purvis' classes are some of my favorite memories; spending every waking moment at the law school with Stefanie and Rod; the rituals of test days!"

Stefanie Krause-Cota

After law school, Stefanie worked as an attorney for Schmidt Hubbell, which later changed to the Law Office of Sarah A. Schmidt. Her focus was on insurance defense and civil litigation, as well as Animal Law. Stefanie took a very extensive leave of absence after

her daughter was born in 2002. During that time as a stay at home mom, she sharpened her skills by mediating, arbitrating, and advocating for her kids. Stefanie has interned over the last few years with Attorney Ruth Lind. Now, she is starting the Law Office of Stefanie Krause-Cota with a focus on estate planning (wills, trusts, powers of attorney), probate, protection from elder abuse, and related law. She also continues to help out in animal law related areas. Her goal is to balance successfully her work life and professional life so she can be Attorney Krause-Cota when the kids are in school and mom when they are out of school.

Stefanie is married to Tony Cota. They have two amazing kids - Alexandra (8 years old) and Eric (5 years old) and three dogs - all adopted from various shelters - Java (a Siberian Husky), Blaze (a Queensland/Jack Russell Terrier), and Peanut, (a Chihuahua).

When asked about recognition Stefanie responded that she had been out of the legal arena for a while but could be considered for the "best mom" or "most likely to create drama in the family" award. Her former co-ed indoor soccer team Back in Black, which includes fellow alumnus Michelle Jorgensen (Law '02), did win the league one season and Stefanie has the t-shirt to prove it.

In her spare time Stefanie enjoys indoor soccer (her current teams are Just 4 Fun and the Cellar Rats), rock climbing, hiking, reading, music, animal rescue, vegetarian food, all things Disney, and football (Go Niners!).

Stefanie is Treasurer and Board Member of the Central Valley Coalition for Animals, one of many Super Adoption organizers and volunteers, and she is also a parent volunteer at kids' schools along with being a soccer coach and preschool teachers' assistant for her church's weekly Faith, Family, and Friends night. Stefanie recalls long study sessions with Kristine Kelly and Rod Kodman. She recalls the look of relief on Rich Cartier's face when he realized that the kids coming into the building were not law students (they get younger every year!) but were, in fact, 15 year olds who were taking driver's training. She tried to enjoy the movie "X-Men" at the theater with fellow graduate Jason Bell the night before the Bar Exam but instead identified all the torts, criminal acts, and other legal issues in the movie.

Gerald Schwab

After passing the bar Gerald worked doing real estate litigation for Harry Pascuzzi (Law '86) for a year then worked for the Merced County District Attorney's Office before going out on his own.

He has done many serious felony trials including murder, attempted murder, and home invasion robbery, and has had a few high profile cases including the Brittany Norris double murder case in Lemoore.

Gerald has a 17 year old daughter that learned to tie her shoes and read at the law school library while he worked as a proctor.

Gerald's interests are reading, watching sports on television, and watching movies; he even had a small part in a locally produced movie, "Stars Too High."

Gerald volunteers by doing restraining orders for operation First Step for domestic violence victims. He has worked mentoring men that are re-entering the community after drug treatment.

Gerald most remembers the friends he made while working in the library and watching football games in the library during the NFL playoffs.

2009 Donors

December 15, 2009- April 5, 2010

San Joaquin College of Law thanks the following individuals and organizations for their gifts. Their generosity helps SJCL deliver an outstanding academic program to students.

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You deserve to be properly recognized for your contributions, and we strive for 100 percent accuracy. If we have made an error, please contact the Advancement Department at 559-323-2100 or email kwelte@sjcl.edu with corrections. Please note our new format of recognizing donors will include those donors and gifts received during the period between each Inter Alia publication instead of an annual cumulative list. Due to the generosity of our donors, we are unable to report cumulatively on one page anymore.



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