

Summer 2011

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Celebrating SJCL's 38th Commencement

On May 28th, 31 people were awarded their Juris Doctor from San Joaquin College of Law at its 38th commencement ceremony.

ou might think serving for eleven years as a Superior Court Judge, including three years as Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division and at least three more as Presiding Judge of the Civil Division would make delivery of a commencement address a simple task, but the Hon. Alan Simpson says it was "nerve wracking." He admits writing and re-writing his speech, in part because he felt so honored to be asked, but also in part because he himself is a 1983 graduate of the Law School. Judge Simpson admitted to the 31 graduates of the Class of 2011 that his high school counselor had told him he would never amount to anything and should join the military. "He was one of the first people I sought out to attend my graduation at San Joaquin College of Law."

Those attending this year's graduation on May 28th included Gary Melvin, who taught graduate Michael Mahoney how to drive years ago, and came to applaud his latest milestone. The 90-yearold mother of graduate Dr. David Margolin flew in from Chicago to see her son hooded with his third doctorate degree, following his MD and a PhD in psychology. It looks like this will be the last doctorate for Dr. Margolin, who gave his wife permission to "hit him in the head with a frying pan" if he ever undertakes something like this again.

Also in the audience at the Saroyan Theatre were those congratulating Cheri Wortham, a mother of four with twins on the way, while some were there to honor Barbara Taylor, a grandmother of two who told the Fresno Bee that every family needs an attorney, and "since we didn't have one, I decided I would be it."

Valedictorian Rachel Cartier gave a nod to other classmates who were the first in their families to have any college degree, as she noted the diversity of the 2011 class. "This class features engineers, members of the armed forces and law enforcement, and even a medical doctor, to name a few. Our interests vary as widely as our backgrounds. The people before you have maintained an interest in a variety of non-Law School related pursuits that include passions in environmental sustainability, music, martial arts, aviation and even beekeeping!"

"Of this graduating class, 6 people have written for Law Review, many

Continued Page 10



Janue Pearson)



We Are Proud to Report

The American Bar Association has alternative methods for demonstrating that an institution meets its standard for bar examination passage. One alternative states that at least 75% of an institution's graduates for the last five graduating years who have attempted a bar exam must have passed, regardless of the number of attempts. With the February 2011 bar results, 76.34% of SJCL's graduates for the last five years have passed. Congratulations to all of them!

Currently, another alternative is to demonstrate that for 3 of the last 5 graduating classes, 75% have passed the bar exam, regardless of the number of attempts. A change to this standard is pending. Under the change, the 75% standard would apply to provisionally accredited Law Schools, but to be fully ABA accredited, 80% of 3 of the last 5 classes would have to have passed the bar exam. No problem. The class of 2008 is now at 83%. The class of 2009 is at 82%. The class of 2010 is at 74.4%. In another year, SJCL will satisfy this standard as well.

Does this mean SJCL can qualify for ABA accreditation? Not yet. There are other standards yet to hurdle – number of full-time faculty, building size, faculty scholarship being the largest. We are working on all of them! It does reflect, however, that SJCL's academic program is sound. Everyone affiliated with SJCL can be proud!

The Annual Fund Does Double Duty

SJCL's Annual Fund enables the Law School to complete projects that might otherwise not be possible with operating funds. For 2010-11, the principal goal of the annual fund has been major renovations of the law library – replacing worn carpet, moving shelves to make them compliant with new ADA regulations, adding wiring for more laptops, and replacing old furniture. This project is important to the learning environment at SJCL.

But the Annual Fund does something more. The first thing foundations and donors ask about SJCL is the extent to which the Law School's own family supports it. If SJCL's own constituents do not believe in its future, others will not. For 2010-11, SJCL's goal is 20% alumni participation in the Annual Fund. That percentage would put SJCL amongst the elite of schools nationwide and send a very strong message to the academic and philanthropic world.

I know you have a letter or postcard from SJCL buried somewhere on your desk at work or home...something you plan to get around to. I have a few of those myself. SJCL can only count gifts received by July 31, 2011 (the end of our fiscal year) towards that 20% goal. Please pull out that letter or card and make your gift now. It does very important double duty.

Inter Alia

Editorial Staff

Janice Pearson Sally Perring Missy McKai Cartier Joan Lassley Robin Leppo Joyce Morodomi Kasi Welte

Contributing Writers

Dede J. Agrava (Law '07) Missy McKai Cartier Kevin Hansen (Law '85) Scott L. Jones (Law '07) Joan Lassley Robin Leppo Janice Pearson Kyle Roberson Honorable Alan Simpson (Law '83) Daren Stemwedel

> Design & Production Mark Enns

Photography

Missy McKai Cartier Kristina Garabedian Kenny Gilman Photography Ronald D. Webb Photography

Publication Professional Print & Mail



San Joaquin College of Law 901 5th Street Clovis, CA 93612 T: 559/323-2100 F: 559/323-5566 www.sjcl.edu

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Inter Amicus



Special thanks to our Alumni Panel Forum participants, including (L-R) Personal Injury Attorney **Tim Mazzela** (Law '93), Fresno County Superior Court Judge **Alan Simpson** (Law '83), SJCL Dean and Panel Moderator **Jan Pearson**, Wills and Trusts/Elder Law Attorney **Teresa Petty** (Law '07), Criminal Defense Attorney **Katherine Hart** (Law '77), and Bankruptcy Attorney **Eddie Ruiz** (Law '95).

By Missy McKai Cartier, Public Information Officer

There are three stories I want to tell you, in no particular order, and being as those involved weren't told they were "on the record," I'll leave out the names. However, the common theme is hard to miss.

Story #1

A certain adjunct SJCL professor queried her class on what to do when part of a case jumped into a specialty of law outside their area of expertise. She waved off several students suggestions of quick research tools, saying students needed to go to the Legal Directory instead.

"You find that area of law and scan down the page until you see an attorney with 'San Joaquin College of Law' after their name. You call them. You tell the receptionist you are an SJCL grad and want to speak to that attorney. She will put you through. That attorney will help you. I have never heard of a case of an SJCL alumnus refusing to help another alumnus."

Story #2

At a recent SJCL Legacy Luncheon at the Downtown Club, participants were shocked into silence when the door suddenly burst open, and a sitting Superior Court Judge loudly bellowed into the room "I know who you are and I know why you're here!"

Silence in the room. Forks in hand frozen above plates. He continued. "And I just want you to know how proud I am every time one of you appears before me in court. You are always so professional, and so prepared."

The judge, of course, is an alumnus.

Story #3

I recently ran into a member of the Alumni Circle and took the occasion to tell him how impressed I was with a radio interview he had granted at my request. He happens to be among the best in this area of legal expertise, yet both he and his wife were laughing about how he prepared at least as much for the interview as he would have for a jury trial. When I asked why, he answered, "I felt as if I were an ambassador for San Joaquin College of Law."

Aren't we all?

It's almost impossible to mention every SJCL grad who has contributed to this Law School just since the last Inter Alia publication, but those who participated in the Alumni Panel Forum on April 28th deserve special mention. Despite the many other commitments of their busy schedules, they committed the evening to speaking to dozens of prospective students. One such prospect has a twitter account and tweeted that the forum was "interesting and motivating." She has been accepted for the Fall of 2011.

Full-Time Faculty

Justin B. Atkinson, Richard M. Cartier, Christine A. Goodrich, Denise M. Kerner, Janice L. Pearson, Sally A. Perring, Jeffrey G. Purvis, Peter Rooney

Adjunct Faculty

Larry Artenian, Jesse Avila, Art Baggett, Barry Bennett, Alyson Berg, Hristo Bijev, Raquel Birch, Hal Bolen, Andreas Borgeas, Dave Camenson, Chrystine Carvalho, Dan Casas, Hilary Chittick, Lisa Coffman, Jon Conklin, Phil Cronin, Mark Cullers, Matt Farmer, Gregory Gillett, David Guy, Jason Hamm, Shannon Harding, Kathi Kesselman, Stephanie Krause-Cota, Abigail Leaf, Jeremy Lusk, Jeff Manning-Cartwright, Deanna Martinez, Bill McLaughlin, Mark Miller, Hilda Montoy, Dave Mugridge, Doug Noll, Kim Nystrom-Geist, Timothy O'Connor, Rose Safarian, Rene Sample, Gary Sawyers, Mike Sheltzer, Mike Slater, Jacqueline Yates

Traynor Moot Court Competition

SJCL students took on teams from virtually every major Law School in the state once again at this year's Traynor Moot Court Competition.

For the third year in a row an SJCL student won the "Outstanding Individual Achievement in Oral Argument" award. Tim Jolly brought home the recognition this year. The Hon. Jonathan Conklin, who coached the team along with Assistant U.S. Attorney Stan Boone, adds "Bryon Clay performed equally well but, due to the subjectivity of the judging, did not receive similar recognition. We had some great judges this year which did make for a very worthwhile competition. The team held their own against some powerhouse schools. SJCL should be proud."



(L-R) The Honorable Jon Conklin, SJCL student Kyle Roberson, SJCL student Bryon Clay, Assistant United States Attorney Stan Boone, and SJCL student Tim Jolly.

SJCL Graduates Its First UC Merced Alumna

Six years after UC Merced opened for classes, one of its graduates has earned a Juris Doctor from San Joaquin College of Law.



Ann Hinesley-Perez (Law '11)

Ann Hinesley-Perez says she was unaware of her historic status as the first UC Merced alumni to graduate from SJCL, but adds she believes the purpose of UC Merced is "to feed the Central Valley."

That "feed" will continue; two other UC Merced alumni are currently enrolled at SJCL and at least two others have already been accepted for the fall of 2011. SJCL alumni now include graduates from every one of the ten UC campuses, including two UCSF grads who enrolled in the Law School when they were already physicians.

Hinesley-Perez spent her first two years of undergraduate work at UC Berkeley, but then transferred to Merced in 2006 as the new UC campus geared up. She graduated two years later with a degree in Psychology, after having made the Dean's List both years she attended that campus.

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Alumni Corner

Hey Mister can you spare 30 dollars? That's all it costs to join your alumni association.

By Dede J. Agrava (Law '07), Alumni Association President

know it feels like people are always asking you for money, but this is different. This is not a donation, this is a membership. And you should belong. Please do not just read this and think about it- this time, I want you to act. We NEED your membership dues. It is that simple. I cannot tell you how shocked I was to learn, after becoming president, how many of you reading this are not members. Maybe it is because we gave you your first year free or maybe you graduated a long time ago and feel disconnected.

SAVE THE DATES

Golf Tournament	September 10	
Senior Law Day	September 24	
Got MCLE?	October 15	
Hall of Fame	October 20	
MMC Christmas Party December 8		

SJCL is our connection. Another group of students became alumni on May 28. You may not know a single one but you are connected—we are all SJCL alumni. Think how many times in a year you tell someone you attended SJCL. We are all proud of that fact!

Some of the alumni work really hard. This allows you to have an alumni association of which you can be proud. We are so thankful for them. The SJCL Alumni Association puts on events, provides scholarships, and offers free MCLE to its members. Please go to the website www.sjcl.edu for the dates and times of our upcoming events and while you are there you can join; it could not be easier.

If you are already a member we thank you. Remember it is never too late to get involved. We are always looking for ideas, suggestions and volunteers. Please feel free to attend a meeting or email your suggestions to DedeAgrava@ gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing your name added to our membership list and visiting with you at one of our upcoming events.

On behalf of the entire alumni association board, I wish you a safe and spectacular summer.

Calling all Paralegals and Tax Grads!

The first thing many people think of when they hear about a graduate of San Joaquin College of Law is often, "oh great, just what we need is another lawyer." But that is an incomplete picture. Although there are more than 40 years of graduates of the school's Juris Doctor program, there are hundreds of other SJCL graduates out there. Those other graduates were part of SJCL's Paralegal and Masters in Taxation programs. Sadly, none of them are represented in the Alumni Association.

Therefore, the San Joaquin College of Law Alumni Association invites each and every graduate of these programs to join. Membership in the Association has worthwhile benefits (3 hours of Continuing Education), is rewarding (lots of community outreach), and is a great way to network with local professionals in the legal community. Membership is only \$30 per year, but as is its tradition, the association provides the first year at no cost. For more information, contact Scott Jones at mecclone@comcast.net. Better yet, simply visit the SJCL website and sign up today.

40 under 40

onsidering the average age of a student at San Joaquin College of Law is 28, it isn't easy for grads to achieve notability in the community before the age of 40. And yet, for the third time, SJCL grads have made Business Street's "40 under 40" list. This is just the fourth year for the list, and it includes both Adam Stirrup (Law '08) and Sevag Tateosian (Law '03). Two years ago, Lisa Bennett (Law '03) became the first SJCL grad to make the list.

Stirrup's community involvement includes sitting on the board of the Fresno State Alumni Association and Fresno County Young Lawyers, along with community service at the Saint Agnes Men's Club. He currently works for McCormick, Barstow, Sheppard, Wayte and Carruth.

Tateosian heads the "Bank on Fresno" program through the United Way of Fresno County. Governor Schwarzenegger's office chose Tateosian to coordinate the effort to help low-income individuals open checking and savings accounts. The original goal was to open 10,000 such accounts, but under Tateosian, more than 50,000 accounts have been created.



Adam Stirrip (Law '08)



Sevag Tateosian (Law '08)

Calling for Hall of Fame nominations!

As those who have attended the Law School or have interacted with its graduates are well aware, the impact of graduates of the San Joaquin College of Law on the legal community in central California and elsewhere is significant. Numbered among its alumni are judges, prominent lawyers and leaders in the business world and the community.

Hall of Fame honoring prominent alumni of the Law School was inaugurated in 2007, its first class enshrining two late giants of the legal community: Ernest S. Kinney and Theodore R. Forrest, Jr. In 2008, the Hall of Fame inducted the Honorable Gary S. Austin, United States District Court, and Michael Marderosian. 2009 witnessed the induction of Fresno District Attorney Elizabeth Egan, Kathy Hart and the Honorable Don Penner. 2010 was marked by the induction of the Honorable Nancy Cisneros, Tulare County District Attorney Phil Cline and the Honorable Alan Simpson.

If you have visited the Law School recently you will note that the Hall of Fame bearing plaques honoring the members of the Alumni Hall of Fame has grown impressively. The time has come to elect individuals for the class of 2011.

The 2011 ceremony to enshrine members of the 2011 class of the Alumni Hall of Fame will be on October 20th in Fresno's beautiful federal courthouse.

Criteria for election include graduation from the San Joaquin College of Law, the passage of a minimum of ten (10) years since graduation before nomination, exhibition of the highest standards of ethics and professional competency, professional achievement in service that brings honor to the San Joaquin College of Law, and a candidate who has remained at the pinnacle of his or her career for a period of time sufficient to demonstrate dedication and maturity, or otherwise a career that has had a profound and positive influence on the Law School. Candidates may also be inducted posthumously.

A blue ribbon committee will be hard at work reviewing the qualifications of



alumni submitted to develop a slate of top nominations. A selection committee made up of past inductees and others will choose this years members to be elected to the SJCL Alumni Hall of Fame class of 2011.

Call for 2011 nominations is open now. Go to www.sjcl.edu/hof to submit your nomination. For more information contact Joan Lassley at 559/323-2100.

Delta Theta Phi Dodge Ball Tournament



Pour months after the unexpected death of San Joaquin College of Law Professor Deanna Martinez last November, over forty SJCL students, members of the community, and friends came together for the first ever Delta Theta Phi Law (DTP) Fraternity Dodge Ball Tournament.

Five adult teams and two kid teams raised nearly \$2,000 for an educational fund for Martinez' son, Adrian. DTP would like to extend a special thanks to the family of law student Keith Teague for their help with the event. Professor Martinez, 43, taught at SJCL for more than a decade. She was in the process of teaching "The Federal Courts and the Federal System" at the time of her unexpected death. In addition to her teaching duties, she was an Assistant United States Attorney with the Department of Justice. Anyone who would like to contribute to the education fund for her son should contact Christopher Conner, Wells Fargo Advisors, at 559-437-2277.

February Bar Passers

H ow did the eleven SJCL alumni react when they got word they passed the February Bar? One ran through a screen door and jumped into the pool. Twice. Another fell off her chair as her name came up on the computer screen. She began to cry, not in pain, but because she would "never have to go through this again!"

Eight of the eleven managed to make it to the champagne reception for bar passers at the Law School. They included Daniel "DJ" Brickey, who was in Las Vegas for a buddy's bachelor's party, but grabbed a quick afternoon flight back to town so he wouldn't miss the celebrated "staircase picture." His wife pleaded with fellow celebrants to wait another five minutes as her husband frantically drove to the Law School for that storied shot.

The Bar Passers were greeted by faculty, staff, and classmates. Bar exam war stories were exchanged. They used words like "brutal" and "nasty" to describe the questions they encountered on the February Bar. While many had worried they didn't pass, some were certain that was the case.

Kristi Costa began her week Monday with an on-line search of hotel rooms



TOP ROW (L-R): Scott Levy and Jim Miller MIDDLE ROW (L-R): Jason Antoyan, Jennifer Nelson, and Kristi Costa FRONT ROW (L-R): Daniel "DJ" Brickey, Rebekah Eropkin, and Oliver Larrivee NOT PICTURED: Ann Bennett, Paul Denni, and Nicholas Perry

as she prepared to take the Bar in July. She was sure Friday would bring bad news, but Wednesday brought wonderful news: the birth of her son, Archer. It had been a busy year leading up to the bar exam for both Kristi and her husband, Alex. Back in March of last year, they opened the Mad Duck restaurant. Kristi was seven months pregnant when she took the February Bar, but then returned to Fresno and worked at the Mad Duck right up until her due date. Her husband joked they had been trying to fire her to make her slow down. Two days after Archer's birth, Kristi got word she had hit the mark for the February Bar. Fourteen minutes after receiving word, she posted on her Facebook page "Such a blessed week. My baby boy was born and I passed the Bar. My husband has been the most amazing support system..."

The new attorneys were sworn in at Fresno City Hall on June 1st at 3pm.

Time is running out!

Be one of our generous supporters who make SJCL the leading legal education institution in the Valley. Check out our scrolling donor list on the website to see if your name is on it. If it's not... what are you waiting for?

To make a gift, go to sjcl.edu/makeagift or send your gift with the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your support of our \$100,000 annual fund challenge!



Celebrating the Past 20 Years of Law Review

With the upcoming release of the 20th Volume, the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review will be celebrating the past twenty years of the Law Review at San Joaquin College of Law.

▼he San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review's (SJALR) primary goal was to provide a forum for law students and legal professionals to discuss the pertinent agriculturally related issues of interest to the legal community. As the first legal journal in the country to focus on agriculture, the SJALR has pioneered not only a greater awareness of the impact of law on agricultural interests, but also its impact far beyond farm boundaries. Over the past twenty years the SJALR has been cited in numerous judicial opinions, legislative materials necessary for the formation of various statutes, and within the pages of other journals. The Law Review would like to recognize those authors whose comment or article has been cited in either a judicial opinion or other publication.

As the release date for the historic Twentieth Volume approaches, the Editorial Board is compiling an index of citations for the SJALR which includes judicial decisions, case briefs and other legal journals, along with over 250 citations within the editorial notes of code sections on Westlaw and Lexis Nexis. At least one article or comment has been cited from volumes one through eighteen. This is not an exhaustive list of the SJALR's cited Articles or Comments, but rather, an ongoing process. If you are aware of specific citations, please send the information to the Editorial Board at SJALRBoard@student.sjcl.edu. As a preview of that upcoming list, Law Review would like to commend those authors that have been cited. The following is just a sample of citations that the Editorial Board has identified.

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The outstanding effort and professionalism of our authors has helped propel the voice of Law Review to scholarly discourse across the nation, be it through various briefs or other law journals, ranging from Yale to Hastings. The following is a non-exhaustive listing of such citations.

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Nina Krauth (Law '95), Do Farmers Reap More Than Their Child Laborers Sow? The Conflict Between the Fair Labor Standards Act and State Workers' Compensation Laws Volume 5 (1995) cited in the Oklahoma Law Review and the New York University Review of Law and Social Change This list of authors and the numerous sources and quality of citations is a testament to the level of quality that the authors and editors of the Law Review have demonstrated these past twenty years. Such a record reflects the impact and relevance the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review's* voice has been and continues to be within the legal community. As the next twenty years began, the *SJALR* continues its tradition of excellence in developing legal scholarship on issues that have an impact on agriculturally related concerns. In celebration of the past twenty years and with an eye in further developing the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* over the next twenty years, the Editorial Board would like to invite all of our past writers and donors to celebrate the release of the Twentieth Volume and all past volumes this fall. More details will emerge about this event as it approaches!

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of them editors. We have members of the SJCL Traynor Moot Court Team present, as well as leaders in both Delta Theta Phi and LawSUIT. Some people have run small claims or the mediation clinic at SJCL. Others have managed law firms. Some people have already written judicial opinions as law clerks and there are some people that have already passed the patent bar. Many of us have worked full time throughout the past 3, 4 or 5 years of Law School. Some of us are married, or about to be. Others have young families or little ones on the way. We balanced all of this in order to be here today."





Valedictorian Rachel Cartier

Ross Borba (Board) and John Loomis (Board)



Elizabeth Morgen, William Nelson, and Brittany Nicol



Commencement Speaker the Honorable **Alan Simpson** (Law '83), Honorable **Jon Conklin** (Adjunct), and **John Loomis** (Board)



Henry Campa with family



Lisa Cutts, Ian Cooke, and Rachel Cartier



Melissa Wong, Timothy Bragg, and Patricia Lopez



Miguel Jimenez and family



Timothy Bragg and Matthew Bowden



Rachel Cartier with her father Professor Rich Cartier

Class of 2011

Ashley Ann Allred Matthew Travis Bowden **Timothy William Bragg** Henry Campa Jr. **Rachel Ann Cartier** Ian Elizabeth Cooke Lisa Ann Cutts Ryan Sebastian Dunning **Daniel Wayne Epperly** Kathryn Chalfant Gates Alejandro Gaytan Rachel Elizabeth Gonzalez James K. Hering Ann Marie Hinesley-Perez Manuel Eric Ignacio **Miguel Angel Jimenez** Brian Anthony Jones David Mark Lange Patricia Lynn Lopez **Michael Patrick Mahoney** David Ira Margolin Elizabeth Michelle Morgan William Kenneth Nelson **Brittany Diane Nicol** Erick Joseph Rhoan Albert Silva **Barbara Jane Taylor** Raul Vidal Uribe Michael Alexander Varin Melissa J. Wong Cheri-Lynn Wortham



Ryan Dunning, Erick Rhoan, and Albert Silva



Professor Jeffrey Purvis



Rachel Gonzalez and Michael Mahoney



Manuel Ignacio with family



Student Ryan McAbee and Ashley Allred with family

Commencement Address

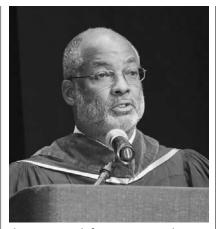
The following is an excerpt of the Honorable Alan Simpson's (Law '83) commencement address. For the complete transcript of his address please visit www.sjcl.edu.

ean Pearson, trustees of the Board, graduates of the San Joaquin College of Law Class of 2011, family and friends, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be among the first to congratulate the members of this class for their outstanding accomplishment!

I will speak with you today about matters of perspective, and vision. A few years ago, the members of this class challenged themselves by committing to embark on a journey during which many events would unfold. Births, deaths, marriages, divorces, exhilaration and despair have all been experienced, and they will continue. The floods and droughts in all of our lives will come and go from time to time.

Someone once observed that "into every life, a little rain must fall." How we view what happens afterward is largely a matter of perspective. Yes, surely there may be rain, but from them our bodies and minds are cleansed. Plants and animals are nourished and replenished.

For those of you wondering "Oh my, is he going to launch into a diatribe on the weather?" you need not be concerned. I am not here to talk about the weather. I am here to honor and celebrate the results of the rigorous academic climate into which students immersed themselves, 3, 4 or 5 years ago. The results are the harvest, these graduates of the San Joaquin College of Law, Class of 2011. You graduates harbor the perseverance, courage, intellect and ability to influence and shape the course of what will become history. A wise person once said, "he who reaches only to build below the skies, builds too low." On the 17th day of September, 1787, by unanimous consent of those present, the people of the United States endeavored to form a more perfect Union, to establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for



the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and to secure the Blessings of Liberty for themselves and Posterity. Since that time, because of the vision of good citizens, the tenacity of strong lawyers, and the courage and wisdom of our Courts, I stand before you today not 3/5ths of a person, but whole, able to equally enjoy and vigorously protect all of our civil rights.

Over the past 100 years, our country had the vision to enact child welfare, education and labor laws in an effort to ensure that 7 and 10 year olds have an opportunity to become literate and informed, rather than listening only to the clattering machinery they might otherwise operate under poor light in stagnant air, with few breaks and even fewer safety precautions. Whether you like it or not, and whether legal or not, since the beginning of time women have largely determined if the children they carried would be born. However, it has only been less than 100 years, through the vision and perspective of good citizens, the fierce determination of lawyers, and the balance of our courts that women have recognized their legal right to vote, and to hold elective offices.

My father, who was a Deputy Sheriff, had access to the courthouse on weekends. One day he told my mother that he and I were going for a ride. When we arrived at the courthouse and entered one of the courtrooms, I was a little scared. He assured me that we were quite safe and directed that I climb a few certain steps and sit in a certain large stuffed chair. He told me to stay right there while he went into another room to look for some papers he claimed he needed. Upon his return a few minutes later he asked what, if anything, I had seen. I told him that from that chair I could see everything in the room. He made quite an impression on me because he smiled which he did not often, and simply said, "Yes. Good. That's the best seat in the room. From there, you can see everything."

I did not graduate from high school, nor do I have a GED. My mother, a lifelong educator, cried. My father did not smile. One of my counselors, the one whom I didn't like much, told me that some people were just defective, and that I would never amount to anything unless I received the guidance and discipline of the military, into which I should immediately enlist. He was one of the first people I sought out to invite to my graduation from San Joaquin College of Law. While I have always been a strong supporter and had the utmost respect for our military, I did not take his advice. I did register with the Selective Service, but immediately became a student at Fresno City College upon payment of \$7.50 tuition. I graduated and transferred to California State University Fresno from which I graduated with a degree in Political Science. My mother laughed. My father smiled.

While at Fresno State, I worked as a Security and Safety Officer for the now defunct Montgomery Ward & Company. Management provided me a personnel manual to read and sign, and I was introduced to my new colleagues, one of whom was Robert Gilmore. I was told that Robert was a terrific Security and Safety Officer and that he was not to be trifled with, as he was a very serious student and would soon be graduating from the San Joaquin College of Law. So there we sat, at the top of one of the observation towers, exchanging the same air, taking turns with the binoculars and listening to our walkie-talkie radios, vigilantly awaiting any shoplifting scofflaws or hazardous chemical spills in the garden department. We had vision, so to speak, but I doubt either of us realized that I would become a Superior Court judge, or that Bob would start his own successful law practice, and eventually argue more than one case before the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

When I passed the bar examination I was hired as a Deputy District Attorney for the County of Fresno by Edward W. Hunt, an earlier graduate of San Joaquin College of Law. Within weeks I handled and tried cases against many professional adversaries, among them Ernest S. Kinney. Ernie was an enigmatic, eccentric and extremely effective defender of the accused and a champion graduate of the San Joaquin College of Law.

Hired away from the Office of the District Attorney, I joined the Law Offices of Marderosian & Swanson. Mick Marderosian and Jim Swanson both graduated from San Joaquin College of



Law. After a little research and inquiry into the firm and its members, it was obvious to me, and to my wife whom I married during Law School, that if I was willing to work hard, joining would likely be a good experience. It was, and after 11 years there, during which I became a partner, I left to join our Superior Court, where I have been for the past 11 more years.

I've drug you down parts of my personal path in life to point out some of the motivating forces and people who helped me in many ways. As you heard, my development has largely been local, but there are many, many graduates of San Joaquin College of Law who in ever increasing numbers, can be found in satisfying and challenging careers in multiple levels of private business and government, throughout California, the United States and many other places in this world. I know you're wondering, "Yeah, so what? Am I going to be able to find a job?" The answer is: Yes. Of course. And a good one.

First you can create your own - one of the beauties afforded by a legal degree. According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics Projections of Employment Change By Occupation, Legal occupations will experience a growth rate of 15% between 2008 and 2018. Of course, not everyone is interested in traditional law office employment, or in becoming a judge, although many of you may do exactly that. I would suggest however that you also consider those industries where growth is projected to rapidly and substantially increase, such as medical and scientific technology, healthcare, social assistance, and professional and technical services. Employment in management and scientific and technical consulting services is expected to expand a staggering 83%. Remember that there will, of necessity, be a constant need for monitoring and compliance with workplace safety issues, environmental resource management, and employment regulations.

Your acquisition of a law degree is an indicator that you might be somewhat of a "people person". The population is

becoming larger, not smaller. You may have, or develop a love of teaching. The sports and entertainment industries are growing and will continue to do so. Might some of you find interesting and rewarding careers as agents, managers or negotiators?

You, your families, friends and significant others who have supported you are all here to acknowledge and celebrate the strong foundation you have chosen to stand upon by earning your law degrees. I would urge you to keep your feet on the ground, your eyes and ears open, your good minds clear, then reach for the stars! The rains, droughts and periodic depressions will surely come and go. It's how you deal with them, how you choose to utilize your vision and perspective, that will really matter.

Before I close, I would like to touch upon one other topic. When I enrolled in SJCL it had no permanent campus of its own. Classes were conducted in a lecture hall and a couple of other rooms at Fresno Pacific University, just off Chestnut Avenue. Eventually the school became established in one building on Shields Avenue. Through the generosity of this community and support of many graduates of SJCL, the school was able to move to its current location on 5th Street in Clovis. Over 84% of SJCL graduates who have taken the bar examination, have passed. This graduating class has an average age of 28. You will likely live a long time. Now that we are confident you will all become rich, famous and powerful, perhaps you will include in your future, doing what you can, when you can, to enable further growth and success of our school.

Recognizing that I am a member of a profession which at one time allegedly made a living billing by the word, I don't want to prattle on and on at your intellectual expense. I will close by offering you graduates one phrase I learned from a schoolyard game long ago, "Tag - You're it!"



Scholarship Banquet

n April 8th, students, staff, faculty and alumni came together for the annual SJCL awards banquet, this year entitled the Scholarship & Witkin Awards Night (SWAN). The highlights this year included fantastic entertainment, with an appearance by Dean Pearson as Emily Litella, and the return of emcees Hal Bolen and Dave Camenson, who many will remember as "Hans & Frans." This year, Hal and Dave took on the role of 1L's, lured to Law School by the promise of a "free wild kitten."

The meals and service provided by Pardini's received rave reviews, while on the dance floor the lack of a crowd gave some SJCL shakers and movers room to really strut their stuff. As we celebrated the passing of another year, new SBA Officers and Law Review Board Members were announced, many students were honored for their great accomplishments, and worthwhile recipients of much needed scholarships were given by some very generous donors of the Law School.



(L-R) George Vasquez, Alixandra Vang, Travis Ishikawa, Michael Varin, Stacie Prickett, Michael Mahoney, Daren Stemwedel, Ian Cooke, Josh Kruger, and Brittany Nicol



Erick Rhoan, Kyle Roberson, Ashley Allred, Nicea Bates, Lisa Cutts, Rachel Cartier, Chester Walls, and Christina Widner



Lisa Craig, Libby Hellwig, and Kellie Owens



Ross Borba (Board) and Nancy Flynn



Robin Leppo (Staff) and Michael Dias (Board)



Galatea DeLapp (Law '94) and David Camenson (Adjunct)



Anasheh Shimirian and Harout Bouldoukian



Mike Mazzoni, AJ Driscoll, and Megan Duntra



Hal Bolen (Adjunct), Janice Pearson (Dean), and Mark Pope, US Trustee for Central California Bankruptcy Association



Travis Ishikawa, Kristina Garabedian, Mary Raterman-Doidge, and Conlin & Diana Reis



Gary Caine, William Buttry, Justin Loyear, and Rachel Cartier



Stergeos Demetreos, Joyce Morodomi (Staff), and **David Camenson** (Adjunct)

Scholarships

Legal Edge Consumer Scholarship Kevin Stimmel

Brown Scholarship for Women and Minorities Marla Garcia

Elizabeth O'Neill Memorial Scholarship

Mary Raterman-Doidge

Central California Bankruptcy Association Scholarship Nicea Bates & Jeremiah Paul

American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) Memorial Scholarship Christina Widner

Woman Lawyer Scholarship Sara Santoyo & Tara Tarasen

Delta Theta Phi Scholarship Joshua Kruger & Daren Stemwedel

Law Students United In Tolerance Scholarship Henry Campa

Proctor Scholar of the Year Jeremiah Paul

Theodore R. Forrest, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Michael Varin

Ibarra/Casillas LawSUIT Scholarship Jose Silva

Leon S. Peters Leadership Awards Bryon Clay, Jeremiah Paul, Kyle Roberson, Christina Widner, & Jonna Williams

Ernest S. Kinney Trial Lawyer Scholarship Henry Campa Carolyn T. Mirviss Scholarship Joshua Kruger

Spirit of San Joaquin Scholarship Michael Mahoney

Judy Wiseman Memorial Scholarship Bryon Clay

Darryl B. Freedman Bar Study Support Scholarship Cheri Wortham

Kharazi Bar Study Support Scholarship Rachel Gonzalez

Clovis Soroptimist Woman's Advocate Award Rachelle Taylor

Robert F. and Kathryn S. Price Scholarship Travis Ishikawa

Albert Ramirez Bail Bonds Scholarship Rachel Cartier

Founders' Scholarship Lisa Cutts

SJCL Student Bar Association Scholarships

Erick Rhoan, Kyle Roberson, & Chester Walls

Ken Coyle Memorial Scholarship Daren Stemwedel

Students of the Year

First Year: Jonas Parr Second Year: Raj Sungu Third Year: Phillip Walsky Stacie Prickett Fourth Year: Ashley Allred



Phillip Walsky, Rebecca Walsky, guest, Brian Jones, Ian Cooke, Ann Hinesley-Perez, Nathan Hanson, Rachel Cartier, Gary Caine, and William Buttry

Alumni Profiles

SJCL congratulates our alumni celebrating 10, 20 and 30-year anniversaries in 2011. It has been a wonderful opportunity to contact all of our alumni to write their amazing stories. Thanks to all for reading and participating.

2001 Jeffrey Bohn

Prior to Law School, Jeff worked as a Hmong and Lao interpreter for the various courts in California. This confirmed his desire to go to Law School and he was able to put himself through Law School while working. After doing clerkships for the law offices of Baradat & Edwards, and Baker Manock and Jensen, Jeff decided that he definitely wanted to be a plaintiff's attorney. After passing the bar he opened up a law office practicing in the areas of Personal Injury, Real Estate, Immigration and Family Law. Jeff's first trial involved an issue of first impression in California dealing with fraudulent deeds. Jeff prevailed for his client at the trial and appellate levels and the decision was published. Since then his firm has grown to six attorneys and six support staff, with offices in Fresno and Sacramento. He has conducted over 30 trials in 10 different counties.

Jeff is married to Jenifer, They have four children: Wesley 14, Garrett 12, Drew 10 and Brynne 6. They enjoy camping, water skiing, snow skiing, and riding motorcycles. Jeff is actively involved with the Consumer Attorneys of California in defending plaintiffs' rights and committed to preserving plaintiffs' rights through jury trial litigation. He also enjoys being a scoutmaster and little league coach for his boys. Jeff also teaches Sunday School.

Jeff remembers spending countless hours pacing the upstairs library study room memorizing Jan's "barf statements." He remembers that his classmates were constantly in fear of being called upon to brief cases in Prof. Purvis' Constitutional Law class. Jeff made it his goal to never be caught unaware. He did this by raising his hand and disagreeing with Prof. Purvis' position on a regular basis. Professor Purvis never did call on him to brief a case.

Deborah Boyett

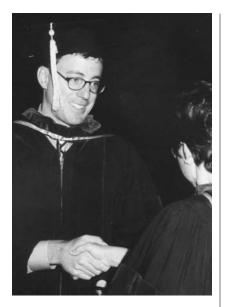
Since March 2005 Deborah has worked with Walter & Wilhelm Law Group, Fresno, CA. Her practice areas are Business Transactions and Trusts and Estates/Probate. She worked from 2001-2005 with Kahn, Soares & Conway in Hanford, CA. Deborah has two sons: Jonathan Munro (Deceased) and James "Jamie" Munro, 17 yrs old. Jamie currently attends Buchanan High School. Deborah enjoys time with her son. But he's 17 now, so there is little inclination on his part to hang out with mom.

Deborah was honored by being inducted on June 15, 2010 to the Central California Advertising and Marketing Hall of Fame

In her spare time Deborah enjoys being the music ministry team pianist and singer and women's ministry coordinator for her church. She also enjoys travel, football, and learning to speak Italian, "Ciao, bella!" She has been active in work with the Evangel Home and Pregnancy Care Center.

When asked about special memories of SJCL, she states: "My four years at SJCL gave me a whole bunch of special memories. Beth coming to school on roller skates, and Gina always saying, 'Pass' in contracts. Our class included Faith and Hope... and I'm pretty sure there was some charity mixed in by the





professors. Then there were the Saturday morning get-togethers with our all girl study group. We'd meet at the school to work on outlines and lend each other a ton of moral support. We were especially good at commiserating with each other. And I was fortunate enough to have the Boone and Conklin comedy team for three separate classes. It was like having our very own version of Laurel and Hardy. Having them as professors led to an internship for the misdemeanor unit of the US Attorney's office. That was a great opportunity, as was my entire SJCL experience. Was it really 10 years ago? Seems like just yesterday I was lugging my 25 pound, steel-cased IBM Selectric II typewriter up the stairs to the second floor to take another exam..."

Alex Peltzer

Alex is a partner in Dooley, Herr, Peltzer & Richardson (same place he worked through Law School (it was just called Dooley & Herr then). They focus on public agency and environmental (water) law. He is the City Attorney for Visalia, general counsel for several large and small water districts, and special counsel for several other public agencies. The firm has been directly involved in the San Joaquin River litigation, settlement, and implementation of the settlement.

Alex is married to Jennifer. They have a daughter Addy who is 6 and just finished kindergarten.

Addy is a zoo and aquarium fanatic, which means Alex and wife Jennifer are now zoo and aquarium fanatics. Other than that, they spend a lot of time restoring (i.e. fixing) their old home.

Alex is on the board for Self Help Enterprises (an affordable housing non-profit) and the Visalia Parks and Recreation Foundation.

Alex recalls some SJCL memories; Moot Court weekend in San Francisco with Kim Raven, Diana Setoodeh, Jon Conklin and Stan Boone. Their team beat out all the big schools (Boalt, Hastings, Davis, Stanford, UCLA) for best brief. He believes it was the first 1st place award the school had ever received. Also thrilling was the fact that they got to meet some Supreme Court justices. As he recalls, Jon and Stan had a hard time focusing on the competition - they were itching to get to Brooks Brothers before it closed. Alex also remembers that making his own outlines is the only study device that worked for him, so he got really proficient at it. He has heard that some of his outlines may still be floating around (but his advice: outlines only work if you create them, so using someone else's probably won't do you much good).

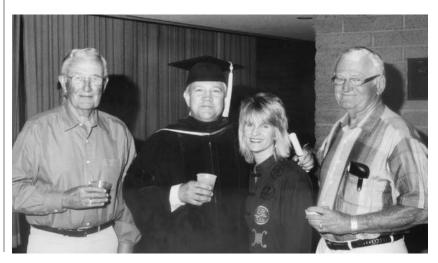
Michael Sobyra

Michael has worked as an F/A-18 Hornet Fighter-Attack Aircraft Instructor/ Analyst, for the United States Navy. He has also become a teacher in the Visalia Elementary School System, which he enjoys very much. All of Michael's children are adults now with careers of their own. He enjoys spending as much time as he can with them and the grandchildren. His children supported him so much during his Law School career, for which he is extremely grateful.

Michael recalls receiving an award for his Moot Court presentation; he made it to the semi-final round which is a great memory. What he really remembers is that eight students were selected and seven of those were female, which proves his theory that females have a much better handle on this Law School show than males!

Michael enjoys time with his family, military aviation, watching Robert De-Niro movies, Elvis Presley and Torts. He said he still reads his Torts case book every night. He works often with military veterans groups and gets satisfaction from that work.

When asked about SJCL memories michael said "Simply put, Law School was a joy for me. All except having to drive from Visalia every day. Ever since grade school, I had always wanted to earn a law degree. Through the grace of God, and the dedicated help of all of the fantastic SJCL instructors, and staff, it worked! My favorite subjects were Torts, Criminal Procedure, and Con Law. Every fellow student had special things to offer, and many great friendships were made. It truly was a great four years! Thank you, thank you very much."





The future's so bright... I got to wear shades!

hope those are the lyrics being sung by our most recent class of graduates-Class of 2011! Welcome to the alumni family and we look forward to continuing our relationship with you in that bright future ahead.

Another reason to grab my shades is because we have been very busy making history in the Advancement Department and we have you to thank for that! This year's annual fund has already bested last year's record breaking figure with a total of \$71,638 in gifts received to date. Our goal is \$100,000 and I know we can reach it with your help! We truly appreciate our donors dedication to continuing to make SJCL a priority in their giving.

Is your name on the list?

By now many of you may have received a call or message from 2L student, Kristina Garabedian, who on her off time from studying (yes, which is few and far between!) works in Advancement to help us reach our fundraising goals. You may have even received a call from the Dean herself! Their call is to ask for your support of our \$100,000 annual fund challenge and keep you updated on what's happening at SJCL since you have been gone. Thank you to all who graciously accept her calls and pledge your support to the school! Our priority in Advancement continues to be increasing the level of alumni participation to the Annual Fund, so we are grateful for a gift of any size from you. As you can see from the recap below, the leading class for total contributions at \$6,150 is the Class of 1985, closely followed by the Class of 2001 with gifts totaling \$5,250! The leading class for total participation at 42% is the Class



Annual Fund as of June 30, 2011 \$71,638

of 1980, and trailing by less than 1% is the Class of 1974! All of this excitement has generated some friendly challenges among classmates with some classmates offering to host parties at their homes if their class wins the challenge for participation and classmates pledging matching gifts if their class raises a certain goal.

If you have made a gift to the annual fund challenge this fiscal year, your name is scrolling on our new donor list on the homepage of our website. Go to www.sjcl.edu and check to see if your name is on the list. If not, we hope to add your name by the end of our fiscal year on July 31, 2011. What are you waiting for? Show your support today!



Class Standings as of June 24, 2011

YEAR	CONTRIBUTION	PARTICIPATION
1974	\$271	41.67%
1975	\$150	10.00%
1976	\$300	20.00%
1977	\$1,050	13.33%
1978	\$790	10.53%
1979	\$700	33.33%
1980	\$3,120	42.11%
1981	\$350	25.00%
1982	\$150	11.11%
1983	\$200	10.00%
1984	\$425	15.79%
1985	\$6,150	32.00%
1986	\$275	19.05%
1987	\$750	18.52%
1988	\$4,640	26.09%
1989	\$600	9.52%
1990	\$200	6.67%
1991	\$190	9.52%
1992	\$1,500	17.14%
1993	\$4,950	10.00%
1994	\$390	9.80%
1995	\$2,490	12.20%
1996	\$2,565	10.42%
1997	\$650	6.25%
1998	\$25	2.94%
1999	\$1,030	6.98%
2000	\$1,525	10.71%
2001	\$5,250	11.76%
2002	\$770	16.67%
2003	\$0	0%
2004	\$1,043	9.68%
2005	\$1,700	8.82%
2006	\$345	8.33%
2007	\$3,685	19.05%
2008	\$380	13.04%
2009	\$270	8.89%
2010	\$325	6.98%

*Bold signifies leading class in category

Thank you for your support!

March 1, 2011-June 24, 2011

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.

Gifts of \$5,000+

Leon S. Peters Foundation

Gifts of \$2,500-4,999

Cornwell & Sample Rene Sample ('88)

Gifts of \$1,000-2,499

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