



Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

Volume XXIII, Number 1

Spring 2012

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Granville Homes Donates \$120,000 to Immigration Clinic

Darius Assemi is not an attorney, but the President of Granville Homes has a very clear understanding of how hard it is for legal immigrants to become citizens.

He emigrated to the U.S. from Iran in 1978 to obtain his degree in Civil Engineering from California State University, Fresno. He says he personally saw the scams that target those seeking citizenship.

“We understand the challenges, especially for

those who don't understand the laws,” he says. “Immigration is very complicated, and we want to help assure legal immigrants seeking to become citizens don't get abused.”

To that end, he is donating \$120,000 to help fund San Joaquin College of Law's New American Legal Clinic (NALC), which officially opened in January. NALC provides legal immigrants with free information and counseling with the ultimate goal of attaining citizenship. It also

seeks legal status for victims of violent crimes such as domestic violence and supports agriculture by assisting immigrants in obtaining legal status to enable lawful employment.

Assemi believes the benefits of that lawful employment extend to all sectors. “We need talent to keep us on the forefront of innovation and we need a workforce to execute the vision of the talent. We need somebody to dream it and somebody to build it.”

Assemi has built a great deal since his arrival in the U.S. He has worked at family-operated Granville homes since receiving his engineering degree, using that position to give back to the community. Among its many charitable projects, Granville builds and raffles off the “Home of Hope” each year, raising well over \$2 million since its inception in 2006. Proceeds benefit charities ranging from the Poverello House and Community Food Bank to various foundations for Valley schools.

When asked why he chose the NALC Clinic as the latest recipient of his generosity, Assemi says “This country and this city have been very good to us,” adding “The opportunity in this country is incredible. Your success is determined by the capacity of your character and how driven you are. It's one of the driving sources that makes this country so successful.”



Dean **Jan Pearson** presents **Darius Assemi** with a plate commemorating Granville Homes' generous gift to the NALC.

How do you know if a law school is producing a sound legal education? Certainly, there are the objective indicators which draw the most public attention, such as bar passage rate and employment.

The American Bar Association has a standard for bar passage that requires a school to satisfy one of several alternative measures. Have 75% of the school's graduates over the last five graduating classes passed a bar examination, regardless of the number of attempts? That number for SJCL is 79%.

Alternatively, in 3 of the last 5 years, have 75% of a school's graduates passed a bar examination, regardless of the number of attempts? There was a proposal to raise that requirement to 75% for provisionally ABA accredited schools, but 80% for fully accredited schools, but that proposal was abandoned. For SJCL, the data is as follows: Class of 2008–83%; Class of 2009–82%; Class of 2010–84%.

As to employment, of the 52 graduates from 2010 and 2011 who have been admitted to the bar, as best as we can determine, only three (class of 2011) are currently seeking legal employment.

Discussions about improving legal education nationwide focus on the attainment of practical skills – problem analysis and resolution, research and writing, oral communication, pre-trial and trial practice, document drafting. SJCL has long had practice oriented courses – Pre-Trial Civil Litigation, Advanced Criminal Law, Civil Trial Practice, Criminal Trial Practice, and now Contract Drafting.

Since 1994, SJCL has operated the Family Law Mediation Clinic, assisting couples to attain mutual agreement as to the division of their property without the adversarial environment of the courtroom. Students, under a professor's supervision, perform the mediations and prepare court documents.

Effective January 2012, SJCL opened the New American Legal Clinic wherein students, under a professor's supervision, assist immigrants eligible under current law with obtaining legal residence status and ultimately citizenship. The Clinic has been enthusiastically embraced by students and the community. The Department of Homeland Security identified Fresno area as one of the seven areas in the United States most impacted by immigration assistance fraud. NALC is a step in attacking this problem while helping students to develop real-life skills.

SJCL students and faculty are committed to serious academic endeavors. Faculty are engaged in publication of both articles and textbooks; they are working to create new electives to expand student learning opportunities. The San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review just completed its 20th year of publication, encompassing hundreds of articles on current issues in agriculture. What an accomplishment for which students who have served on Law Review can be extraordinarily proud!

SJCL students have participated for many years in the statewide Traynor Moot Court competition and distinguished themselves admirably. Recently, an SJCL team participated in the national Refugee and Asylum Law Moot Court Competition at U.C. Davis. There were 21 teams in the competition – 20 ABA accredited law school teams and SJCL. SJCL placed third, ranking above teams from institutions including Michigan, Cornell, Columbia, and Brigham Young.

Finally, how do you know if a law school is producing a sound legal education? Just look at the accomplishments of its graduates, not only in their practices but also in their contributions to the community. Read the biographies in this and other issues of the *Inter Alia* to get a flavor for the infinite variety of their endeavors.

I rest my case.

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Inter Alia

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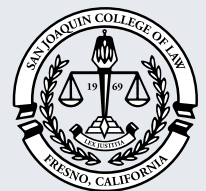
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SJCL Scores Third Place in National Moot Court Competition

Congratulations to the San Joaquin College of Law team, which took third place at the UC Davis Asylum & Refugee Law National Moot Court Competition.

SJCL students Gary Caine, Jesse Molina, and Christina Widner took on 20 teams from 15 other law schools, ranging from Cornell and Pepperdine to Columbia and Notre Dame. SJCL was the only non-ABA school in the competition, but in the end, was bested only by Hastings in first place and Campbell in second. Professors Gregory Gillett and Justin Atkinson coached our team to an astounding finish.

In the opening rounds on February 3rd, the SJCL Team defeated the University of Michigan and one of Campbell's two teams in direct competition and headed into the quarterfinals ranked second in total points. In the next morning's quarterfinals, SJCL defeated Pepperdine University's team, but later lost to Campbell's other team by only two points (286 to 288 out of 300) in the semi-finals. The SJCL Team also took 5th place in brief writing, a category in which the difference between first and fifth place was mere points.

SJCL outscored and outperformed teams from Cornell, Columbia, Notre Dame, Southern Illinois, UNLV, Santa Clara, Valparaiso, New York University, Brigham Young University and more.



(L-R) Professor Gregory Francisco Gillett, Gary Caine, Christina Widner, Jesse Molina, and Professor Justin Atkinson

One of UC Hastings' two teams won the competition with a top score only one point higher than SJCL's top score.

Aside from an outstanding performance which places SJCL on the national scene in this area of law, the Team's poise, preparation, and overall professionalism demonstrated some of the highest standards seen at the competition. After one of the rounds, one of the judges commented to Professor Gillett "I have argued for 30 years and in front of all courts in the land (including the Supreme Court) and this team has better

advocacy skills than many, if not all, of the lawyers that I have seen."

The team had an opportunity to meet and mingle with top jurists, including Justice Cruz Reynoso, who was also extremely impressed with their knowledge of the law, poise in presentation and ability to connect with the judges. Meanwhile, a coach from Campbell commented that he had never seen any law school come to the competition with as large an entourage of supporters as SJCL. Those ten supporters included parents, friends, a spouse, and SJCL staff.

Full-Time Faculty

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

Adjunct Faculty

Hon. James Ardaiz, Lawrence Artenian, Jesse Avila, Art Baggett, Barry Bennett, Alyson Berg, Hristo Bijev, Raquel Birch, Hal Bolen, Stanley Boone, David Camenson, Thomas Campagne, Chrystine Carvalho, Dan Casas, Hon. Hilary Chittick, Lisa Coffman, Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Mark Cullers, Matthew Farmer, Peter Fashing, Mia Giacomazzi, David Guy, Jason Hamm, Jeff Hammerschmidt, Shannon Harding, Kathi Kesselman, Stefanie Krause-Cota, Jeremy Lusk, Jeff Manning-Cartwright, William McLaughlin, Mark Miller, Hilda Montoy, David Mugridge, Doug Noll, Hon. Kim Nystrom-Geist, Sharlene Roberts, Dan Rogers, Rose Safarian, Rene Sample, Gary Sawyers, Michael Sheltzer, Michael Slater, Jessica Smith Bobadilla, Hon. Oliver Wanger, Melissa White

Getting my legal feet wet in the New American Legal Clinic

This semester I was given an amazing opportunity to serve along with eight other students in the New American Legal Clinic.



Professor **Justin Atkinson**, **Kristina Garabedian** (Law '14), Mexican Ambassador **Arturo Sarukhan**, **Phillip Walsky** (Law '12), **Tanvir Joshi** (Law '14), and **Joshua Longoria** (Law '14)

By **Kristina Garabedian** (Law '14)

When I first went to the information meeting, I wasn't very interested in Immigration Law. However, Professor Greg Gillett got me hooked when he mentioned they wanted students who have a passion for helping people. That's me!

NALC was formed by Professor Justin Atkinson to help immigrants in our community. There is so much fraud in immigration law. We have seen examples of immigrants paying unauthorized immigration consultants thousands of dollars to help them, nothing gets done, and the immigrants are left feeling hopeless. Our clinic provides advice and services for free. The clients are so appreciative of our services. Even if we are not able to help a person, we still listen to their story so they know someone cares and then we refer them to a law office.

Some of the law offices in town provide free consultations if we are not able to help the client.

Clients are able to visit us on Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Mexican Consulate. The staff members at the consulate are wonderful to us! They do everything in their power to make our experience at the consulate a positive one. Working out of the consulate has afforded us many wonderful opportunities. The Wednesday group was featured on the Spanish-language channel Univision and in the Fresno Bee and the Thursday group met the Mexican Ambassador to the United States, Arturo Sarukhan. The visit from a top representative of Mexico to Fresno highlights the important relationship between the Valley and Mexico. Mr. Sarukhan was very impressed with the

work the New American Legal Clinic is doing and thanked each of us personally for our work.

Professor Jessica Smith Bobadilla is our immigration law expert extraordinaire. She teaches our Friday class where we learn about immigration law and review our cases. All three of our professors are doing an astounding job and are making the experience of working with the NALC very rewarding. We are not only learning about immigration law but how to interview clients, keep a complete file, research and interact with clients. These are all very valuable skills that every lawyer should have.

Thank you to everyone who supports our school and especially our clinics!

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Alumni Panel Forum

One degree, a world of options was the message from alumni panelists to prospective students

Prospective students seeking to learn about the many different careers you can pursue with a law degree had their options expanded on January 26, at the SJCL Alumni Forum. The six panelists at the forum introduced the very diverse career pathways they pursued after obtaining a Juris Doctorate degree.

The moderator for the Alumni Panel Forum was Dean Pearson. The alumni panelists were Nancy Jenner, partner of McCormick, Kobot, Jenner and Lew, a municipal law firm located in Visalia; Ben McGriff, who started his career by opening his own law firm in 2008 and now works for State Compensation Insurance Fund; Erin Rhames-Childs, who is the principal of Childs Law Group, APLC, in Fresno which focuses on family law collaboration and litigation; Dan Rogers, who practices interactive entertainment law, transactional law, and intellectual property law, primarily within the video game and social media industries; Robert Romanacce, who is the Chief Deputy District Attorney for the Homicide team in the Fresno County District Attorney's office and Cindy Wathen, an award winning book author who works as the Public Affairs Communication Specialist for Fresno State's masters program in Creative Writing.

The room was filled with approximately 50 prospective students and family members spellbound by the personal stories of our alumni. When Dean Pearson asked each of the panelists to describe the highlight of their careers the responses were equally as powerful yet profoundly different.

Tiffany Alkire who works as a legal assistant part-time and who attended the event stated "All of the panelists stories were extremely beneficial. It was Nancy Jenner, who related her personal



PANELISTS (L-R) **Robert Romanacce** (Law '94), **Erin Rhames Childs** (Law '02), **Jan Pearson, Dean**, **Dan Rogers** (Law '08), **Cindy Wathen** (Law '95), **Nancy Jenner** (Law '89), and **Ben McGriff** (Law '08)



struggles as a single mother attending law school and making her way through it, that was most inspirational to me to pursue my dream of becoming a lawyer."

On behalf of San Joaquin College of Law, thank you to all of our alumni for their participation in SJCL Forums and for serving as mentors to prospective students as they pursue a legal education with San Joaquin College of Law. We welcome the assistance of our alumni to invite prospective students to our upcoming Law Forums.

UPCOMING FORUMS

Law Forum

April 12, 7-9PM

HOSTED BY **Jon Conklin**, *Adjunct Professor*

LSAT Night

April 26, 7-9PM

HOSTED BY **Jan Pearson**, *Dean*

Alumni Panel Forum

May 22, 7-9PM

Zepure Attashian (Law '05)

Art Baggett (Law '93)

Trudi Manfredo (Law '93)

William McComas (Law '08)

Christina Skaf Hathaway (Law '07)

Rick Wolf (Law '97)

Students Win Zekian Scholarships

For the first time since its inception six years ago, both recipients of the Harry Zekian Scholarship are students at San Joaquin College of Law.

Elizabeth Durbin, who will graduate this May, and Harout Bouldoukian, slated to graduate in 2013, were each awarded a \$2,500 scholarship through the Fresno County Bar Association in conjunction with the Zekian Scholarship Committee.

The scholarship is in memory of Zekian, who graduated from Clovis West High School, then California State University, Fresno, and finally received his J. D. from Whittier Law School in 1998, but was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident just five years later. The scholarship seeks to assist law school students with significant ties to the Valley who express interest in practicing locally.

While Harout is from Southern California and received his bachelor's degree from Cal State Northridge, he is currently working in the Self Help Center of the Fresno County Superior Court in conjunction with the Better Business Bureau. He says he is highly interested in staying in the area, where he would like to combine his interests in law and finance to help people resolve money issues ranging from bankruptcy to tax, corporate and contract law issues.



Harout Bouldoukian (Law '14) **Elizabeth Durbin** (Law '12)

Durbin, a graduate of Edison High School and California State University Fresno, is currently a law clerk with the firm of Nuttall, Coleman and Wilson. Previously, she served as an intern at the Federal Defender's Office. She plans to stay in the area and hopes to practice in the area of criminal defense after she passes the Bar. She says the scholarship will help defray the cost associated with sitting for the Bar Exam.

Student Wins Hugh Goodwin Scholarship



(L-R) SJCL Adjunct Professor, Assistant U.S. Attorney, and Hugh Goodwin Bar Association President **Mark E. Cullers**; **Victoria Hernandez-Maga** (Law '15), and Fresno County Bar Association President Elect **Laurie Avedisian**.

Congratulations to Victoria Hernandez-Maga, a first year law student at San Joaquin College of Law, who was awarded the scholarship at the Hugh Goodwin Bar Association's Scholarship Luncheon.

Hernandez-Maga, who was Class Valedictorian at Sunnyside High before continuing to Fresno State and then SJCL, says she is thrilled with the award. It is one of the very few scholarships open to those in their first year of law school. Hernandez-Maga is excited about a number of areas of law, but definitely plans to be part of the New American Legal Clinic starting next year.

The Hugh Goodwin Scholarship is named after the first African-American judge in Fresno County.

SJCL Alumni Assist Santa

Kudos to the SJCL Alumni Association elves who swept into high gear for this year's party for children and moms at the Marjaree Mason Center!



(L-R) Alumni Association President **Dede Agrava** (Law '07), **Roger Wilson** (Law '97), Dean **Jan Pearson**, Santa (**Rick Horowitz**, Law '06), and **Marcella Downing** (Law '05).

Special thanks to the Clovis High Choir which helped entertain the roughly three dozen children. Each child received not only a special gift from Santa, but also a hand-knitted hat from the Mom of Director of Student Services Joyce Morodomi, a hand-made, coordinating scarf from SJCL students Kristina Garabedian and Mary Raterman-Doidge, a brand

new book distributed with the loving help of Tarcy School Librarian Georgi Leonardo, and a Polaroid photo of them sitting on Santa's lap. Due to security concerns, we can't show the pictures of the children. However, maybe you can see their delight reflected in our faces as we sat on Santa's lap and told him we already got exactly what we wanted for the holidays!

*And I think to myself...
what a wonderful world.*

As I watched the Academy Awards and I listened to that song I thought to myself what an amazing, diverse, talented group of people, all connected by one thing -the movies- and in that moment it occurred to me, I too am connected to an amazing, diverse, talented group of people, all connected by one thing - SJCL. Thus, I am proud to serve again, this year, as your Alumni Association Board president.

First, let me welcome our three new board members, Amy Guerra, Beth Waldow and Margie Webb. They will join your current board members: Nitza Coleman, Brande Gustafson, Ron Henderson, Scott Jones and Roger Wilson. Additionally, the wonderful Joan Lassley will again serve as the SJCL liaison to our board. As you can see, we have a great group of people; however, we still need you. We need your support, your membership dues and your volunteerism.

As you read this article, you may wonder why must she always ask me to pay my thirty dollar (\$30.00) membership dues. Actually, I wonder that myself. It seems to me with all the wonderful things your alumni board does we would not have to ask at all, that payment would be automatic. The GOT MCLE? offered in the fall, alone, which is free to members, is a great return on your investment. Add in the scholarships to current students, the wonderful Golf Tournament the board sponsors, the Marjaree Mason children's Christmas party, just to name a few and it becomes apparent your dues help us do some amazing things. Again, we have made it easy for you to pay- go online to the SJCL website and use PayPal or simply drop a check in the mail to SJCL. We depend on you to do this.

Finally, I would like to personally invite you to attend our board meetings. We meet at SJCL on the third Tuesday of each month. We would love to have your attendance, your ideas or simply your support. If you have an idea you would like your alumni board to entertain please feel free to contact me: Dede@djalegal.com or contact any of our board members. We really are open to your suggestions. And I look forward to hearing from you.

I wish you a healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2012-in other words- a wonderful world.

Dede J. Agrava
SJCL Alumni Association President
Class of 2007

SAVE THE DATE



10TH ANNUAL
**Judy Wiseman
Memorial Golf
Tournament**
SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2012
BRIGHTON CREST GOLF
& COUNTRY CLUB

Elizabeth O'Neill's Short Stack for a Tall Cause

Hundreds lined up to dine on a delicious breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausages, fruit cups, orange juice and coffee, for the 4th annual Elizabeth O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Pancake Breakfast on February 18, 2012.

It was a beautiful day in the park for pancakes. Over 275 runners, walkers, SJCL students, alumni and staff, friends and family of the late Elizabeth O'Neill and members of the legal community gathered to support the scholarship named in Mrs. O'Neill's honor. The scholarship awarded annually goes to support female heads of household who are currently attending San Joaquin College of Law.

This year's event, sponsored by Sam and Linda Lucido, was a tremendous success, in large part due to the volunteers who gave up their Saturday to set tables, flip pancakes, serve food and clean up. Kristina Garabedian (Law '14) was our volunteer coordinator extraordinaire, recruiting volunteers from Hope Lutheran Church, fellow SJCL students, and students from Buchanan High School.

In no particular order San Joaquin College of Law would like to thank the following people for making the event a success this year: Hon. and Mrs. Lawrence O'Neill and family, Kathryn and Wendel Wersching and family, Sharon and Robert Garabedian (Law '81), Linda and Sam Lucido, Barbara and James Cowart, Phil Benner, George Van Pelt, Ken Berryhill, Mary Raterman-Doidge (Law '13), Libby Hellwig (Law '14), Wes Carlson (Law '14), Jeremiah Paul (Law '12), Crystal McCraine (Law '15), Jennifer Gevorkyan (Law '15), Marla Garcia (Law '14), Amanda Kendzora (Law '15) Christine Frazer, Georgi Leonardo, Jan Pearson, Missy Cartier, Joan Lassley, Mark Enns, Joyce Morodomi, Kasi Welte and Wawona Frozen Foods for donating 288 fruit cups for the event.



O'Neill family



Special thanks to (L-R) **James Cowart, Sharon Garabedian, Robert Garabedian** (Law '81), **Barbara Cowart, George Van Pelt, and Phil Benner** for making the breakfast.



Books from Elizabeth O'Neill Breakfast Reach Happy Hands!

Weldon Librarian Lisa Palomares (L) and Miramonte Librarian Sue Hamilton (R) agreed the donation is a wonderful windfall. The 355 books were collected as part of the Elizabeth O'Neill Pancake Breakfast and will be split between the two Title I schools. The librarians say their annual book-buying budget is one-seventh of what it was in years past.

Race Judicata Rocks SJCL

If success is measured in people, it was a huge year for Race Judicata. Roughly a thousand people milled about the campus and the 543 runners was a new record.



Josh Kruger isn't the only one looking forward to his graduation from San Joaquin College of Law this spring. So are all of the other SJCL Race Judicata 5K runners in the male 25-29 year age bracket, which Kruger once again dominated this year, taking another law school trophy. While it's tradition that each year of law school adds an extra minute to your race time, Kruger actually shaved time off his run this year, finishing in 20:42 for a first place showing among SJCL students and an overall 4th place showing in that division. First place in the division went to Ryan Anderson with a time of 17:36. The overall winner of the 5K was Luis Braun with a time of 15:26, while Elisa Angulo carried off the women's trophy with a time of 18:27.

In the 2 Mile Run, David Huerta was the winner, with Erica Guzman topping the women's division; Ryan Davey took top place in the 2 Mile Walk while Kerry Caldwell led the women; and eight-year-old Owen Monke topped the Kids Run, with seven-year-old Amy Filipoff leading the girls.

Although it marked the eleventh running of Race Judicata, this year featured tremendous change. The first came as Sherrie Flynn (Law '05) handed control to Sierra Running Company's Mike Hess. Flynn has been an integral part of Race Judicata since its inception and while she swears she has to concentrate on other races, she probably spent as

much time explaining details to Hess and the SJCL staff as she did actually planning the race in previous years.

Meanwhile, Hess not only met the challenge, answering complications with extra work, boundless enthusiasm and a great sense of humor, but also added new flourishes, including chip timing, tech shirts, changing some trophies from wall plaques to engraved gavels, and adding a new costume category for runners. That category brought a number of contenders and a lot of laughs. Entrants included one couple where the guy was dressed as an attorney with the words "Ambulance Chaser" emblazoned on his back. His girlfriend, meanwhile, had the label of "Ambulance" on her back. Another group of three looked like a trio of donut-munching Keystone Cops. And then there was Paul Ronshausen, who ran the race wearing stripes and hauling a balloon "ball and chain."

Another great addition to this year's race was the banner stretched across Clovis Avenue. When SJCL Alumni Association Treasurer Roger Wilson heard about the plans for the banner and the expense, he persuaded his law firm, Nuttall Coleman & Wilson, to take the lead as the title sponsor for the banner and the event.

Meanwhile, Sierra Challenge Express awarded Race Director Ken Takeuchi a "Lifetime Achievement Award." Coach Ray Knight made the actual presenta-

tion, noting that Ken's commitment, work, and the fact that he knows all the runners' names make him irreplaceable, if not intimidating.

Other notable people who played a part in this year's Race Judicata include Clovis City Council Member Bob Whalen, who fired the starting horn for the race. The Dean of SJCL, Jan Pearson, did not run the race this year, but instead found herself presenting awards to winners.

The proceeds from Race Judicata go to the SJCL Student Bar Association and Sierra Challenge Express, Inc., both non-profit charitable organizations. The Student Bar Association uses the proceeds to help fund three scholarships, along with student services and events. Sierra Challenge Express largely uses the proceeds for its scholarship fund, benefiting local college runners with financial needs.

Race Judicata wishes to thank its sponsors, particularly Sierra Running Company, which provided numerous gift certificates for the raffle, our DJ Ben, and Joan Lassley, of San Joaquin College of Law, whose contributions over the years are too numerous to mention. We also wish to thank 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.

Lifetime Giving Societies Reception



Dianna R. Madison (Board & Law '01),
Jan Pearson, Dean, and **Cyrus Madison**



Hon. **Dale Ikeda** and Professor of Law
Jeffrey Purvis



Staff member **Joan Lassley**, **Kathleen McKenna**
(Law '99), and **Howard & Margaret** (Law '93)
Shainberg



James Wasson (Law '75) with **Dede** (Law '07)
& **Tom Agrava**



Claire Carroll (Law '05) and
Donna Korotie (Law '85)



Raj Sungu (Law '12) and
Hon. **David Kalemkarian**



Robert & Holley (Law '88) **Perez**



Phil (Law '80) & **Linda Tavlian**



Sam & Linda Lucido and **Kristina Garabedian** (Law '14)



Peter Wall (Law '08), **Mary Thornton**
Wall (Law '08), **Scott Jones** (Law '07),
and **Teresa Petty** (Law '07)



D. Greg Durbin (Board), **Jeanne Durbin**,
and **Mary Raterman-Doidge** (Law '13)



Hon. **Jose** (Law '79) & **Carol Banuelos**

Thank you for your support!

December 1, 2011 – February 20, 2012

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 \$10,000+

Borba Farms
Ross Borba (Board)
Granville Homes, Inc.

Gifts of \$2,500-4,999

Central California Bankruptcy Association
The Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation
Hon. Annette LaRue
Albert Ramirez ('96)
SJCL Student Bar Association
Kimberly Sweidy ('85) and Raymond Stata

Gifts of \$1,000-2,499

American Board of Trial Advocates
Carl Brown ('76)
Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity
Allison Gong- Dummit ('96)
Nuttall, Coleman & Wilson
Jan Kahn (Board)
Peter Rooney (Staff)
Janice Pearson (Staff)
Soroptimist International of Clovis
Kathryn Stamos
Christopher Watters ('07)
Richard Watters
Wells Fargo Foundation

Gifts of \$500 – 999

Randolph Ataide ('86)
Baker, Peterson & Franklin
Dennis Bean
Debora and Hal Bolen
Michel Bryant ('91)
Michael Condry ('80)
Clinton Cummins ('90)
Delta Theta Phi Foundation, Inc.
Gregory O. Dias, Jr.
Michael Dias (Board and '93)
Donn Furman ('93)
LBJ Properties
Robert Lindsay ('92)
McCormick, Barstow, Sheppard, Wayte & Carruth
Mark Miller
Hon. Robert Oliver (Board)
Robert Price (Tax '87)
Sierra IP Law, PC
SJCL Alumni Association
Dennis Veeh (Board)

Gifts of \$250 – 499

Anonymous
Mark Blum ('92)
Burford Farming Co.
Denise Cahill ('04)
Ronald Henderson ('80)
David Ibarra ('10) and Jennell Casillas
Bruce Leichty
Weakley, Arendt LLP
Kathryn and Wendel Wersching

Gifts of \$100 – 249

Norman Avedian
Missy McKai Cartier and Richard Cartier (Staff)
Fran Christiansen ('79)
Donald Fretz
Amy Guerra (Board and '07)
Katherine Hart ('77)
Timothy Hart ('83)
Maureen Hayes (Staff)
Hon. Dale Ikeda
Joan Lassley (Staff)
Robin Leppo
Loss Protection Investigations, Inc.
Sharon Markland
Pamela McFarland ('85)
John Mesrobian ('79)
Carol Moses ('92)
Sally Perring (Staff)
Frank Powell

Hon. R.L. Putnam ('75)
Hon. Stephen Sefton ('78)
Hon. Mark Snauffer
Michael Splivalo ('86)
Nancy Stegall ('96)
Sharon Stull ('85)
Howard Watkins
Gwen Watt
Sara Widener-Brightwell ('94)
Hon. Georgia York ('78) and Tom Riggs

Other

William Armbruster ('77)
Courtney Caron ('07)
Gerald Farrington ('80)
Kristina Garabedian
Dorlie Goodger
Linda Kelly ('86)
Stefanie Krause-Cota ('00)
Kathleen McKenna ('99)
Lisa Nilmeier (Staff)
Hon. Rosendo Pena
Vernon Reynolds ('10)
Carlyn Robbins (Staff)

Donation of Books to the Library

C. Michael Carrigan ('92)
Miles, Sears & Eanni
Phillip Tavlian ('80)

SAN JOAQUIN COLLEGE OF LAW'S 20/20 VISION

SJCL's participation rate was 14% last year. Our goal this year is to reach 20% alumni participation and increase contributions by 20% to the Annual Fund.

Last year out of 1,217 active alumni, 175 gave to the Annual Fund.
Adding 75 more alumni donors would bring our rate up to 20%.

Participation Matters

Every alumni gift adds to the participation rate, a key indicator that:

- Influences funding decisions by corporations and foundations.
- Reflects the strength of your law school experience.
- Inspires others to give.
- More accurately reflects SJCL's vibrant and committed alumni population.

Alumni Profiles

SJCL congratulates our alumni celebrating 10, 20 and 30-year anniversaries in 2012. It has been a wonderful opportunity to contact all of our alumni to write their amazing stories. Thanks to all for reading and participating.

1982

Gary W. Dyer

Gary has spent 24 years with the Office of the U.S Trustee, a component of the Department of Justice, in Fresno, then Riverside and now in Spokane.

Gary has been married to Alison for 25 years. They have two sons; one has graduated from college and one is about to graduate from college. Both may be headed to law school.

When asked about awards and/or achievements, Gary stated that his family and his dogs love him. He also convinced a Starbucks addict to change to a local and better coffee brand. Gary enjoys hiking, trail maintenance, cross country skiing, baseball cards, and is involved in a downtown food ministry to homeless and low income people.

When asked about any special SJCL memories, he recalled Judge Caeton, dressed in black, for Criminal Procedure, asking about the right to privacy, and how to demonstrate the reliability of a confidential informant; Michael Case answering every contracts question with "It depends"; Randy Penner posing unanswerable philosophical questions not really designed for a legal answer; and Dean Bailey's calm poised Trial Practice teachings.

Douglas E. Haas

Before entering law school in 1977, Doug served subpoenas for fellow classmate Janine Reagan who operated a service of process business. In 1978 he became a Deputy Probation Officer and worked there until 1983. After graduation, in May of 1983, he became a Deputy District Attorney, where he worked many assignments from juvenile hall, justice courts, general felonies, Sexual Assault and Child Crimes Team. He supervised the Juve-

nile Hall Team, the Major Narcotics Team, the Gang Prosecution Unit, and the Homicide Team. He was promoted to Chief Deputy District Attorney and supervised the general felony team, the Domestic Violence Team, the Rural Crime Team, the Narcotics Team, the Career Criminal Team, and the Prison Crimes Prosecution Team. Doug retired on 11/11/11 but returned as an extra help for the District Attorney as of mid-February 2012. During his time with the District Attorneys Office he also instructed Legal Research and Civil Procedure at Central California School of Law and has instructed law enforcement at continuing education seminars throughout his career.

Doug married Marci Sue Treatch in 1979 after he completed his first year at SJCL. Marci currently teaches kindergarten at Cedarwood Elementary School in Clovis. They have two adult children. Josh, age 28, completed a culinary degree at the California School of Culinary Arts in Pasadena, CA. He currently works for Fresh and Easy Corporation and is pursuing a bachelor degree. Abby, age 24, graduated with a degree in Child Development from CSUF and will be graduating with a Masters in Social Work from CSUF in May of 2012. Abby is married to Eric Arii. No grandchildren have entered the scene yet.

Doug has been a Certified Specialist Criminal Law State Bar of California since 1993. He has tried 105 cases to a jury during his career as a prosecutor. He was co-prosecutor with now Judge Houry Sanderson in the year 2000 when they tried one of the Asian Gang Rape cases to a jury. They tried 12 defendants and opposed a total of 14 defense lawyers. The trial started in mid-January of 2000 and verdicts were obtained in mid-July of 2000.

Doug is an avid snow skier having logged 56 years at the sport as of this winter. He enjoys backpacking, hiking, and camping. He also enjoys working on cars as a shade tree mechanic. Doug said he loves the challenge of fixing or repairing just about anything. Doug is an active member of University Presbyterian Church and has served as an Elder several times during the past 20 plus years. Doug has led two mission trips to Mexico during spring breaks when their children were active in the church youth groups. Doug has coached, judged or watched their daughter participate in the Fresno County Mock Trial Competition for 25 or so years. Doug continues to participate in the Fresno County District Attorney Baker to Vegas Law Enforcement Relay team. He is currently a board member and president of their homeowner's association.

SJCL offered Doug the opportunity to attend law school, to work in a career oriented job during law school and finish law school debt free and to be admitted to the State Bar of California. He has become acquainted with many lawyers and judges and made many friends. In one instance, Judge Caeton who was the criminal law and procedure professor during year one taught them all to be prepared for class in a unique way. One night he called on three people in a row who were not prepared to discuss the case. He then closed the textbook rather loudly, packed up his stuff and walked out. They all sat there silently for around 15-20 minutes and determined that Judge Caeton was not returning. Needless to say most of them learned to be prepared for all classes including criminal law and procedure.

1992

Marlene Hubbell

While attending SJCL, Marlene worked as a tax auditor for the IRS, and immediately upon passing the bar exam, left for employment with Sarah Schmidt, practicing insurance defense of fraudulent claims for nearly 8 years. Marlene and Sarah formed, Schmidt Hubbell LLP, an insurance defense firm in Clovis. Marlene also concurrently taught Moot Court at SJCL for five years after gradu-

ating. Transitioning to in-house counsel for Farmers Insurance, Marlene then worked for Banner and Wells, followed by establishing her sole practice while doubling briefly as a manager of Casanova, a fine dining Italian restaurant in Fresno. Marlene has conducted her sole practice for the last ten years, focusing on civil litigation, criminal defense, elder abuse prevention and contract work for other practitioners. She recently joined Hemb & Anderson as Of Counsel, providing civil and business litigation support.

Marlene's son, Austin, was born February 1991, during Marlene's second year of law school. Austin graduated from Central West High School in 2009 as an FFA National Champion (with Marlene role-playing as the FFA mom). Austin turned 21 this year and works in Agricultural Management for Lion Farms/ Lion Raisins of Selma, managing 2400 acres of vineyards in Madera County.

Marlene became remarried to Charles Noordhuizen in June 2010 at Erna's Elderberry House in Oakhurst. Charles is a crisis nurse at St. Agnes Hospital with 33 years of emergency care experience. His daughter, Erica, is a recent Marketing graduate of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Marlene has continued instructing throughout her practice years, having authored continuing education materials and instructed numerous classes on recognition of fraud (including 2 international programs), and select criminal and civil issues. She is currently involved in expanding education about elder abuse and its prevention, having been invited to join the Board of Directors of Castle Keep Elder Abuse Prevention of the Central Valley in 2011.

In her "left over free time," Marlene enjoys the Philharmonic, Fresno Grand Opera, ballroom dancing, landscaping, crafts and the challenge of learning to golf. With a wink, she proudly reports her golfing and bowling scores are consistently close.

Above all, SJCL still holds memories of baby blue leisure suits and fair-time pig contracts questions, Civil Procedure by Oliver Wanger, Evidence by James Ardaiz, the Last Clear Chance, "Be Brief!" said Doug Noll, Sally Perring's Rule Against Perpetuities, Moot Court with champion Patti Williams, Irish drinking songs from Karen Ketendjian, the first issue of the Agricultural Law Review, reading, more reading and pregnancy. Memories of the supportive staff and faculty who filled our heads, and memories of fellow students who now fill the community as well-able colleagues and momentary adversaries: Marlene holds these as gifts of the foundation SJCL has built.

2002 Trisha Beckstead

After graduation, Trisha worked with Dowling, Aaron & Keeler for about one year. She worked in civil litigation, specifically insurance defense. However, since interning at the U.S. Attorney's Office during law school, she really missed working in criminal law. So, she found a position working criminal defense at the Alternate Defense Office. This was a great office to work for since they were very flexible, and worked with her while she took time off for her two pregnancies.

In August of 2006, Trisha was hired at the Fresno County District Attorney's Office. That was a great experience. She was in court every day - a few cases even went to trial - and she even won one! In mid 2008 she decided to leave to spend more time with her family, so she went to inactive status.

Since that time Trisha has taught two quarters of Criminal Justice at ITT. Trisha is compelled to help the less fortunate. In 2009, Trisha and a few friends began helping the homeless. They have collected blankets, gloves, and umbrellas and handed them out on several occasions. They made breakfast burritos and delivered hamburgers. They hosted a movie night for the homeless in Fresno. Another project was secret food or money deliveries for people who were in need, as they came to their attention.

Trisha served on her church board of directors for a term. Her family supports ministries like The Fresno Rescue Mission, World Vision, and their church. In 2010, they began the process of adopting 2 children from the Fresno County Foster System, but each time, the placements fell through. It is something they may try again in the future.

If Trisha were to work in law again, she knows an attorney, who is now retired, who only works pro bono for non-profit organizations. She would love to help him. There is nothing more rewarding than putting your energy and efforts toward something you believe in.

While at SJCL, Trisha graduated as Valedictorian of the class and was Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review. She will never forget her first year study group. It was more like a survival group. They were all there for each other through the stress. As she looks back they still mean a lot to her for that reason.

Currently, Trisha lives in Coarsegold. She has traded in the suit and pumps for jeans and cowgirl boots. She has her first horse (Hunter-a very handsome Bay Quarter Horse) and she is training him. They have deer all over the place, usually 3 to 5 hanging out in her yard each day.

Trisha has been married to Dan Beckstead for over 13 years. Her husband is a Physical Therapist and runs two outpatient centers for San Joaquin Valley Rehab. They have 2 children. Colton, their son, is now almost 8 in 2nd grade, and enjoys 4H, where he is raising poultry. Their daughter, Makayla, is 6 and in 1st grade. She enjoys Girl Scouts. Trisha home schools both Colton and Makayla and they love it. The family has a pug named Darth Vader, and three cats. Trisha still plays piano, and she loves to paint. She is able to go on long hikes, ride horses, be with the people she loves the most, and watch the most brilliant stars up here! She is living the life and couldn't be happier.

Rosie Bravo

Rosie began working for the Law Offices of Javier A. Alabart doing workers' compensation insurance defense a few months before graduating from law school. Although she had not yet passed the Bar, she was able to handle most cases, under Mr. Alabart's direct supervision, due to many years of experience as a claims examiner/claims supervisor. In January 2011, Rosie decided it was time for a change and went to work for Michael Goldberg, as an attorney for injured workers (applicants), which she finds rewarding. She previously worked for Mr. Goldberg as a legal assistant immediately prior to enrolling in law school.

Rosie enrolled in law school at the age of 47. At the time, she was a recent divorcee and had three children, ages 14, 18 and 21. When she graduated from law school, her youngest daughter, Rachel, graduated from high school and her son (middle child), Rene, graduated from U.C. Santa Barbara. Her oldest daughter, Rosanne, was in the process of entering medical school. Rosie is extremely proud to say that she now has an attorney (Rachel), a CPA (Rene) and an M.D. (Rosanne). Rosanne is an OBGYN, who had her own son right after she finished medical school. Rosanne's husband, Warren, is an emergency room physician at Fresno Community Hospital. Rosie has a bright, beautiful grandson named Henry, who will turn two in June!

Rosie's greatest achievement to date has been getting through law school and passing the bar, while raising three great kids. Her next goal is to become a Workers Compensation Administrative Law Judge (WCALJ) in the near future. She is fortunate to say that she has been told by her peers (including her current boss) and other judges that they believe she would make an excellent WCALJ.

A few years ago Rosie decided to take up golf and has taken a few lessons. Unfortunately, she usually doesn't have the time to practice as she should. She does enjoy going to the range to practice her swing now and then just for fun and relaxation.

Rosie remembers all of her SJCL professors with great fondness. They did a great job preparing the students for the Bar. Other fond memories include the discussions/arguments she had with her study partners, Regina Bradshaw and Abel Martinez. Those were very helpful, AND fun times!!

Erin (Rhames) Childs

In 2002, Erin went to work for Dowling, Aaron and Keeler, doing estate litigation. Feeling the entrepreneurial spirit, she decided to go out on her own. On December 1, 2003 Erin started her own law practice in family law. On December 2, 2003 she learned she was pregnant with her first child, so needless to say, it was an eventful first year of practice.

Erin is currently dating a wonderful man who is an advocate for children with special needs. She has two children, Conor, age 7, and Lauren, age 5. They are wonderful, healthy and a joy in every way. Conor is in the first grade at Saint Anthony's and Lauren will soon be starting kindergarten there.

Erin just passed the Legal Specialization Examination in Family Law. She will hopefully complete the entire process in the next few months and officially become a Certified Family Law Specialist. Erin feels very honored to be a court-appointed minor's counsel and attorney for parents whose parental rights may be terminated.

Being able to balance life as an attorney, athlete, and mother is her biggest achievement.

Erin is an avid runner. She loves to run half marathons as much as possible. She is hoping to train for her first full marathon in November. She also likes to mountain bike, cook, swim, play tennis and socialize with friends and family. As for her community involvement, she is a Rotarian with the Fig Garden Rotary. Erin occasionally teaches courses for the National Business Institute on dealing with family law. She teaches a cooking class for Saint Anthony's School as well.

Erin said the best memories she has of SJCL were hanging out for hours on end with her study partners. They studied so much together, spent so many hours together, they really became like brothers and sisters. She will never forget how much they made her laugh. Often times, it was laughter because of fatigue and stress; nonetheless, it was really great. The littlest things to ease their tensions, break the ice, break the stress or just release some nervous energy all came from laughter. Erin remembers those years very fondly and when she finished law school she really missed her study partners a lot.

Jarrett Cline

Upon graduation Jarrett went to work for Myers and Mayfield. He worked with the Fresno County District Attorney's Office from 2003 to 2007. In 2007 he joined the Tulare County Counsel until 2008, when he returned to the District Attorney's Office in Fresno County.

In his spare time, Jarrett enjoys weightlifting and hanging out with friends he has been very fortunate to have met.

Jarrett also stays busy with community work. He has been the scholarship chairman, Sergeant of Arms, and Vice-President of the Latino Peace Officers of Tulare/Kings County. He has also been a member of the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Tulare County and the Fresno County Young Lawyers Association. Currently, Jarrett is a member of the Latino Peace Officers Association of Fresno County.

Jarrett recalls the good times at SJCL hanging out with all his buds in the study group. They had a great group of people. He remembers the "day of the test" summary study sessions, he and Darrin Powell giving Joe Arnold a bad time in tax class (one night in particular), and meeting all the great people going to, and associated with, SJCL.

Tamara Smith

Since graduating from law school, Tammy has practiced in the areas of

personal injury, workers' compensation, and social security disability. She had the good fortune early on to learn from the best at Quinlan, Kershaw and Fanucchi. Tammy subsequently went to work for State Compensation Insurance Fund as a staff attorney, where she had the pleasure to work with many SJCL graduates. At State Fund, she also had the opportunity to meet many new lifelong friends, and she will always think of that job as her most enjoyable job because of the camaraderie among the attorneys at the office and Workers' Compensation Appeals Board. Since 2008, Tammy has worked at the Social Security Office of Disability Adjudication and Review. When she started law school, her desire was to become a research attorney for a Judge. As a Decision Writer and Senior Attorney Adjudicator, she not only gets to write decisions for the Administrative Law Judges, but also she is able to screen cases on-the-record and pay those claimants who qualify for disability benefits. This has been her most rewarding job work-wise.

Tammy has been married to her wonderful husband, Brad, for over 22 years now! Although they have no biological children, they have adopted numerous "fur" children over the years. Currently they have 2 indoor cats – Polli (who is 20 pounds and very happy) and Peach (who is only 5 pounds and equally as happy), and 2 outdoor cats they care for – Sam and Steven Tyler. They have also been blessed with many squirrels, possums, a raccoon, rescue ducks, and a stray dog now and then. "I'm turning into Jan!"

Tammy's main hobbies are gourmet cooking, searching for (and drinking) good red wines, and reading (basically anything relaxing and fattening!). After working long hours during the week, Brad and Tammy look forward to quiet weekends. They have taken many vacations, usually in the form of a cruise, so that they can enjoy their hobbies (i.e., eating and drinking) without having to do the cooking or cleaning. They also try to find time in their busy schedules to spend quality time with their friends and family.

Tammy's main memory from law school is that she loved law school. Most people think she was crazy, but she really enjoyed studying, reading, and writing, which is probably why she ended up in her current job. Her most fun experience was having study group every weekend (literally) for 3 years; this kept her sane. Her worst experience was Moot Court. Even the two glasses of wine beforehand did not make that experience any better.

The professionalism and support of the professors, staff, and classmates are unmatched in any real office. Maybe it is because you are spending the majority of your life for 3-4 years with the same group of individuals who all share the same goal. Tammy's advice to current students is to take advantage of everything SJCL has to offer you and enjoy law school while it lasts!

Lillian Weiland

Right after law school, Lillian interned at the District Attorney's office in the Domestic Violence Unit. She also interned for then Presiding Judge Kane in the Law & Motion Department. Lillian thought she would dread it, but she loved the task of researching. They were on the second floor of the courthouse on "M" street behind the big green doors – and it was exciting. All the research attorneys were patient with her, gave her guidance and were a positive influence. Although Judge Kane's red pen still makes her queasy, she got a great education from those red marks and has daily use for the skills she acquired as a research intern.

Lillian is currently working part-time at Central Valley New Markets Tax Credits Fund as a coordinator and project manager. It's a wonderful job allowing her flexibility to continue her ten-year involvement with Our Lady of Victory School (OLV) in development, fundraising, event-planning, scrip sales, and room mom.

Lillian's husband, David, continues to work hard at Dowling Aaron Incorporated. Their daughter, Julia, has attended OLV from pre-school to eighth grade.

She's graduating in June and therefore Lillian must also. Lillian's aunt, Tia Rosa, is still a big part of their life – she's happy and healthy as well.

Lillian had a chance to prosecute federal misdemeanors and argue complicated sentencing issues when she worked for the US Attorney's office. Sometimes she thought she was in over her head, but it always felt better once she presented her case.

Greg Norys, Ed Johnson and Lillian really made SJCL proud at the Roger Traynor Moot Court competition in 2002. They earned first place for best brief, runner up for best oral argument, and won the Bernard E. Witkin Award for Excellence in Appellate Advocacy, the overall best team award. They did not know what the Witkin Award meant at the time, but later learned it was a big deal. Lillian would like to giveatta-boys to Jon Conklin and Stan Boone for preparing the team and making them work so hard.

Lillian's family is her hobby. She enjoys cooking, reading, hosting guests, organizing OLV events, and working with local non-profit organizations. Whether game night, getting together with other families or just having dinner together – her family time has remained her focal point.

"Life doesn't stop because of law school." That's what her husband said before he shoved her out the door to go to class. Life truly didn't stop for her circle of friends: babies were born, jobs changed, engagements were announced, some moved, and so much more. Those friends made law school one of the best experiences of her life. The day her fellow first-years received their year-end grades is a stand out memory – they survived! Of course, the Alpha Males giving everyone a nickname still cracks her up today. Lillian's was "PB" – short for something inappropriate for print, but very funny.



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