

Winter 2012

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Walmart Gives \$25,000 for SJCL Clinic

San Joaquin College of Law Dean Jan Pearson is pleased to announce a grant received from the Walmart Foundation through their California Advocacy Council will be used to expand and enhance services for the New American Legal Clinic, or "NALC."

his will help SJCL in serving hundreds of people, she says, adding that some of those most in need of the free assistance are customers or employees of Walmart or members of their families.

NALC assists legal immigrants in obtaining citizenship, working through the processes of naturalization. NALC also assists those seeking family-based immigrant visas and U-Visas, depending upon eligibility. The free services are available to residents of Fresno, Madera, Kings, and Tulare Counties.

Last year, Walmart gave nearly a billion dollars in cash and in-kind contributions to various communities and causes around the world. More than 80-percent of the grants and in-kind gifts were distributed in the United States.

In addition to Walmart, San Joaquin College of Law would like to thank the Nisei Farmers League for its support not only of NALC, but also in applying for this grant. President, Manuel Cunha wrote in the grant application of the need in the Valley for a reliable and skilled labor force, but adds the area is ripe for "immigration assistance fraud

perpetrated by unscrupulous people." He says the immigration fraud hurts the workforce, the economy, and can break up families when improper immigration advice is given. He closes by simply saying "We support the New American Legal Clinic and hope you will do the same."

Others who agree with that statement and have already given major financial support to NALC include, Granville Homes, Baradat & Paboojian, Inc., and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, a division of the Department of Homeland Security.



(L-R) NALC Director Justin Atkinson, Student Advocate Josh Longoria, and Administrative Coordinator Mirna Garcia



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Thanks to the work of dedicated faculty and students, the New American Legal Clinic (NALC) is assisting more people than we ever imagined.

As many of you know, the Clinic opened informally in August of 2011 with Professor Justin Atkinson and student (now graduate and bar passer), Will Buttry, seeing clients on an experimental basis.

We wanted to see how a clinic could operate and the types of problems students could handle.

he experiment was so successful that NALC opened officially in January of 2012. Since August of 2011, NALC has assisted 1,072 individuals. Clinic students have assisted 556 people with naturalization (becoming a citizen) and another 293 individuals with other immigration issues, primarily those seeking family-based immigrant visas and U-Visas. In addition, the students have assisted 223 persons through brief telephone counseling. In reality, assisting one member of a family helps the entire family, so we estimate the Clinic has already positively impacted over 2,500 people.

I have been amazed to see the mass of paper that must be submitted for a Legal Permanent Resident to apply to become a citizen. Kudos to the students and Mirna Garcia, Administrative Coordinator for NALC, for pulling these materials together for so many people.

NALC is a powerful experience for students. They experience interviewing clients, investigating and interpreting facts, doing research, and drafting documents. They also learn professionalism, what it actually means to BE a lawyer, and experience the pleasure of assisting a client with a job well done. Now that Professor Jessica Smith Bobadilla, a highly experienced immigration lawyer, has joined NALC full-time as supervising faculty, more students will have the opportunity to tackle even more complicated cases.

A huge thank you to all who have supported the Clinic – with your expertise and financial support. This is an outstanding addition to the SJCL curriculum and to the students' passion for the law.

However you celebrate, we wish you Happy Holidays and a fabulous New Year!

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SJCL Welcomes Immigration Professor

San Joaquin College of Law is pleased to announce the selection of Jessica Smith Bobadilla as a fulltime professor and Legal Director of the New American Legal Clinic.

B as an adjunct member of the faculty, teaching a class as part of the NALC, but her experience with immigration law goes much deeper.

After receiving her Bachelor's degree from U.C. Berkeley and her J. D. from Hastings, she moved to New York to pursue her dual degree in Law and International Affairs at Columbia. There, she not only practiced immigration law, but also worked for the United Nations for a year in an evaluation of its role in post-conflict situations where she crafted and researched the cases of Haiti and El Salvador. She returned to the Valley (much to the delight of her family!) in 2004 after being offered a job with immigration attorney Robert Yarra. Three years later, she opened her own practice.

Over the course of her ten years of practice, Bobadilla has represented asylum seekers and other intending immigrants in removal proceedings pending before the United States Department of Justice, Executive Office of Immigration Review in California, New York, Illinois,

Colorado, Arizona, Tennessee and Utah. She has also handled appeals pending before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the federal circuit courts related to various immigration matters. She has prevailed in appeals before the Board of Immigration Appeals as well as the Ninth and Tenth Circuit Courts of Appeal.

Bobadilla says she loves being in Fresno, where the atmosphere among attorneys is much more congenial than what she found in New York. She also loves the attitude of the students she works with in the NALC. While she finds them very intelligent, she is most impressed with their "kindness and sensitivity" when it comes to working with clients who may have limited communication skills. While some of the law students working in the clinic have immediate family members involved in immigration issues, others come from farming backgrounds. She is not surprised those with agriculture connections have a special interest; in many cases, immigrant families become close friends with growers, who act out of compassion to assure the immigrants are not defrauded.



Aside from her education and experience, Bobadilla has received a number of awards, including "Pro Bono Recognition" in 2007 from Central California Legal Services for Assistance with its Naturalization Campaign and the Forty Under Forty Award in 2008 from Central Valley Business Street.

With the addition of Bobadilla, San Joaquin College of Law's fulltime faculty expands to ten members, along with more than 40 adjunct professors.

Full-Time Faculty

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

Adjunct Faculty

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

San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review Volume 21 Release Party

The release of the 21st Volume of the nation's oldest agricultural law review was carried out in grand style at the Downtown Club on November 9th.

This year's release reception included not only the usual toasts, congratulations, and speeches, but also "Table Talks," manned by authors of both the 21st Volume and those working on Volume 22. In addition, the Law School was able to thank several Law Review donors in person at the event, including Ross Borba, John Mesrobian (Law '79), and Phil Tavlian (Law '80). Other donors included Deborah Boyett (Law '01), Nitza Coleman (Law '03), Dowling Aaron Inc., Francis Gist (Law '92), Joan Lassley, Loss Protection Investigations Inc., Karen Mathes (Law '95), P-R Farms Inc., David Rendahl (Law '95), and Kasi Welte.



Ross Borba (Board of Trustees) and **Nancy Flynn**



Theresa Petty (Law '07) and Scott Jones (Law '07)



(L-R) Christina Widner, Managing Editor, Kyle Roberson, Editor-in-Chief, Nicea Bates, Note and Comment Editor, Angelica Ambrose, Lisa Craig, Mary Raterman-Doidge, Rajinder Sungu, Conlin Reis, Seth Mehrten, Jesse Molina, Jeremiah Paul, and Daren Stemwedel, Executive Editor.

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Alumnus Appointed Superior Court Judge

SJCL is pleased to celebrate Governor Brown's appointment of Michael J. Jurkovich as a Madera County Superior Court judge.

JCL has roughly three dozen judges and court commissioners among its alumni. Mr. Jurkovich becomes the 16th SJCL Alumnus to be appointed to the Superior Court. He is the second SJCL grad to be appointed to the Madera County Superior Court, joining the Hon. Charles Wieland (Law'83)

who was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson about 15 years ago.

Mr. Jurkovich was working at Gilmore Wood Vinnard and Magness at the time of his appointment. Prior to that, he was an attorney and shareholder at Kimble MacMichael and Upton from 1990 to 2011. Before his graduation from SJCL

in 1990, he enjoyed an extensive law enforcement career as a police officer with the Madera Police Department from 1981 to 1990 and a correctional officer with the Fresno County Sheriff's Department from 1978 to 1981. He fills the vacancy created by Judge Eric Wyatt's retirement.

In 2012, six new people joined the administrative team at SJCL.

Victoria Denny joined SJCL as Administrative Assistant to the Deans in January of 2012. She had worked for 11 years as a Solutions Manager for the American Arbitration Association in Fresno. When the SJCL Regional Family Law Mediation Center needed an Administrative Director, that experience made her the obvious choice. Victoria is responsible for overseeing mediators, educating the community regarding the benefits of mediation, scheduling mediations, meeting with County representatives, and accumulating data.

Mirna Garcia has been the Administrative Coordinator for the New American Legal Clinic since April of 2012. She is responsible for keeping all cases handled by the Clinic scheduled, organized, and moving forward. Mirna holds a B.A. in Sociology from the University of the Pacific. In November of 2010 she was elected to the Governing Board of the Luther Burbank School District, where she served until moving to Fresno to be nearer her family.

Jared Nelson joined SJCL as the Senior Network Systems Engineer in June of 2012. Jared assists with day-to-day information technology operations and major programming needs. Jared works effortlessly in a number of hardware and software areas to help with our growing technology needs. Jared has worked for the last 10 years as the



 $(\mbox{L-R})$ Mirna Garcia, Beth Pitcock, Jared Nelson, Jannett Valenzuela, Lisandra Reyna, and Victoria Denny

lead programmer and network administrator at Wawona Frozen Foods.

Beth Pitcock joined SJCL in May of 2012 as the Director of Human Resources and Regulatory Compliance upon the retirement of long-time SJCL employee, Gwen Watt. Beth holds a baccalaureate degree from Fresno State and is a Certified Professional in Human Resources (PHR). For 16 years, she worked in various capacities, including Regional Manager, for ACT1 Personnel Services, Inc. in Fresno.

Lisandra Reyna has just joined SJCL as Admissions Counselor. Lisandra is

about to receive her baccalaureate degree in Business Administration with a Spanish minor from Fresno State. At Fresno State she worked with student advising and new student orientation. She will be assisting Director of Admissions, Diane Steel, with counseling prospective students about attending law school.

Jannett Valenzuela joined SJCL in April of 2012 as Accounting Assistant in the Finance Department. She holds a baccalaureate degree in Business Administration and Accounting, having graduated cum laude from Trine University in Angola, Indiana. She is primarily responsible for Accounts Payable.

SJCL Celebrates 25 July Bar Passers

hat was David Lange's assessment of his wife, Stephanie Smittle, after she discovered she had passed the Bar while having dinner in Disneyland?

"She made babies cry at the Happiest Place on Earth."

She admits she was screaming so loudly her children had to run around telling people she had just learned good news, rather than being critically injured. Lange himself is a 2011 graduate of SJCL who also passed the Bar on his first try. Smittle says they were driving at the time he learned his good news and he simply put his hand over his mouth. However, the kids in the backseat gave voice to the joyous moment.

Smittle is currently working at the Tulare County District Attorney's Office, where SJCL Alumnus Phil Cline (Law '78) is the D.A.

Meanwhile, Bar Passer Ashley Allred is also working for a District Attorney who is an SJCL grad; she works for Madera County District Attorney Michael Keitz (Law '91).

Bar Passer Daren Stemwedel works for Wanger Jones Helsley PC., where retired U.S. District Judge Oliver Wanger a founder of SJCL, is a Senior Partner. Stemwedel has already brought glory to SJCL, winning "Best Brief" at Traynor Moot Court, defeating virtually every major law school in California.

They are not the only Bar Passers with jobs in hand. Most served as law clerks or externshiped during their studies at SJCL. With many of those turned into jobs as associate attorneys. That's the case for Christina Widner at Hammerschmidt Broughton Law Corporation, Nicea Bates and Gary Caine at The Caine Law Firm, Ian Wieland at Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo, Satnam Brar at the Law Offices of An-

drew Fortney, David Litman at Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost, Allie Wieland at the Law Office of Sara Hedgpeth-Harris (Law '86), Nicole Rothford at Lenahan, Lee, Slater, & Pearse, LLP and Chester Walls at Peel, Garcia & Stamper.

Some SJCL graduates interviewed and landed other jobs, including Tim Bartell, who was told by Floyd, Skeren & Kelly LLP "You pass the Bar, you're hired." Josh Kruger also interviewed with success; he started his job at Parker, Kern, Nard & Wenzel four days after learning he passed the Bar. Ten other SJCL Alumni already work there, including Senior Partner Dennis Nard.

While high unemployment for attorneys has been a nationwide concern, San Joaquin College of Law graduates have been fortunate to find a different story in the Valley. Most of the 2012 Bar Passers already have jobs as attorneys. Ninetysix percent of the 2011 Bar Passers are similarly employed.



FRONT ROW (L-R) David Litman, My-Linh Huang, Nicea Bates, and Ashley Allred
SECOND ROW (L-R) Joshua Kruger, Timothy Bartell, Tomas Kunder, and Stephanie Smittle
THIRD ROW (L-R) Kendall Reynolds, Chester Walls, Elizabeth Durbin, Jeremiah Paul, and Christina Widner
BACK ROW (L-R) Allie Wieland, Ian Wieland, Tim Jolly, Phillip Walsky, Kyle Roberson, Derek Walzberg, and Daren Stemwedel
ALSO PASSING BUT NOT PICTURED: Satnam Brar, William Buttry, Gary Caine, Nicole Rothford, and Rajinder Sungu

Bar Admissions Celebration

I have to admit I have never heard of the people connected with this Law School called the "San Joaquin Family."

By Missy Mckai Cartier, Public Information Officer

would have thought upon hearing that phrase for the first time that it would be coming from one of our students, alumni, staff, faculty, or someone with very close ties.

"Are you part of the San Joaquin Family?" The question was asked at the Bar Admissions Ceremony at the B.F. Sisk Courthouse on December 5th. My questioner was a young man who looked to be in his late 20s, preparing to be sworn in. He was all alone. After I admitted I was part of that "family," he admitted he grew up in the Valley, went away to law school, and had returned here to practice. He posed this question to me before Dean Pearson came flying in the door, picking out every SJCL grad, hugging and shaking hands as she made her way through the group. Their families and friends were there, along with alumni and current students who came to cheer their success. They cheered each others' success, and double-congratulated David Litman, who was celebrating not just becoming an attorney, but also becoming a dad.

The swearing-in ceremony included several speeches which touched on the same

theme: build and guard your reputation as an attorney. Fresno County Bar Association President Ken Taniguchi spoke about how a reputation of integrity was key to inclusion in the congeniality of the local Bar. Presiding Justice Brad Hill echoed that thought, cautioning attorneys that bad faith blunders in court could reach far beyond that singular courtroom because, as he bluntly put it, "Judges talk."

Many of the SJCL Bar Passers have already started building those reputations and their hard work as law clerks have led to offers of Associate Attorney positions. On the day of the swearing in, just 19 days after Bar pass results were released, more than 70-percent of the Class of 2012 Bar Passers were already working as attorneys. That number is expected to rise in the next couple weeks.

Not all of the 25 SJCL July Bar Passers were sworn in at the ceremony at the BF Sisk Courthouse. Others were sworn in separately by various other judges, including the Hon. Jonathan Conklin, the Hon. Sheila Oberto, and the Hon. Ernest LiCalsi. Derek Walzberg (Law'12), who



Michael Keitz (Law '91) congratulates Derek Walzberg (Law '12)

was sworn in by Madera Superior Court Judge LiCalsi, was later congratulated in person by Madera County District Attorney Michael Keitz (Law '91). Ian and Allie Wieland were sworn in by Ian's father, Madera County Superior Court Judge Charles Wieland, but both came to the ceremony at the B.F. Sisk Courthouse so they could also take the oath to practice in Federal Court.

They are all building great reputations. And they are taking the "San Joaquin Family" with them.



Pictured (L-R) Timothy Bartell, Beth Durbin, Jeremiah Paul, Tomas Kunder, Allie Wieland, Ian Wieland, Nicea Bates, Kyle Roberson, David Litman, Christina Widner, Kendall Reynolds, and Josh Kruger

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 Julia Brungess

Upon graduation, Julia first shared office space with Chuck Soley. She then worked for Joe Uremovic for two years. In 1987, Julia opened her own office. Her practice is heavily family law. She became a Certified Specialist in 1993.

Julia is actively involved in collaborative family law practice. She is a member of the Board of Collaborative Practice California and President of the local association, the Central Valley Collaborative Law Affiliates.

Julia has served on the Board of the Fresno County Bar Association and as Chair of FCBA's Family Law Section. In the early 1990's she was President of the Board of the Marjaree Mason Center.

Julia is married to Robert Gray Williams (Class of 1975). They have a son and two grandchildren. Playing with those grandchildren and her four dogs occupies a good deal of her free time. Julia also likes to read novels and ride bikes.

Julia says that SJCL provided her with a marvelous opportunity because she needed to work and attend at night. She was too busy to spend much time with her fellow students outside of class, but she values the friendships she had with them, especially John Shehadey.

1992 James Dubbels

Jim worked with Adelson, Testan, Brundo & Jimenez for 15 years, doing workers' compensation defense. He was an equity partner and ran the local office as well as overseeing three other offices in Northern California, work he describes as a 24-7 job. When Linda, his wife, retired, he became Senior Staff Counsel for Travelers Insurance. When he retired from that position, he stayed retired for all of six weeks. He is now of counsel to the Law Office of William Todd Berry where he represents workers compensation applicants and has no management responsibilities. He says it is heaven to purely practice law.

Jim and Linda have three sons. Brad is the oldest and works in molecular biology in Oregon. The middle son, Andy, and his wife, Katie, are the parents of Jim's 2 and ½ grandchildren; the half becomes a whole in six months. The youngest son, Denton, is a legal secretary for Yrulegui & Roberts.

Linda retired after teaching second grade for 38 years. She loves being a docent for the Meux Home. Jim continues a tradition he started in law school; he cooks dinner every night. He loves woodworking and remodeled each of the homes they have owned. They are also Revolutionary War history buffs and traveled to all the appropriate sites in Virginia this summer.

Jim says it was great fun to start the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*. The group of students involved was amazing. As to the law school curriculum, Jim's background was in science where everything is black and white. At first, he was totally confused. When he ended the first year, first in his class, he thought "Shoot. Now I have to finish this. But after that, it was tough, but fun." The class was wonderful and he still sees 8 – 10 of them regularly as they all practice in the area of workers' compensation.

Hal Farley

Hal spent his first year in practice with Greg Morris & Associates, then opened an office with Jose Villarreal and Ka'ren Ketendjian. On July 04, 1995, the firm became Farley & Ketendjian. Hal did some great criminal trials. In 2002, Hal got married and in 2004 moved to Santa Maria to work with Michael Clayton. There his work was entirely plaintiff personal injury. In February of 2009, Hal opened his own office in Santa Maria.

When Hal married, his wife Marie had a daughter and Hal had a son, both of whom, oddly, now happily work in different Chinese restaurants. Hal enjoys reading fantasy books and playing board games – currently Empire Builder. Hal says his partying days are over; the aftermath is too painful. Hal also is heavily involved in his Catholic church – he lectures and is a sacristan.

Hal remembers his first Torts exam. He was lying in the parking lot, smoking and waiting for a car to run over him.



Jan came out to check on him and he explained that he couldn't remember a particular rule. Jan just said "Oh, brother." and the rule came to him. He got up, walked in, and wrote the exam.

He remembers his six-year-old waving at him through the glass door at the Shields building during Justice Ardaiz' Evidence class. Justice Ardaiz said "That poor child is doomed." He remembers all the great smiles his classmates had, especially Jonathan and Leah. Finally, he is thankful to Jan and all her cronies for giving him the chance to change his life. But please do not think he has stopped whining.

F. John Gist

John's life since graduating from law school has been a combination of politics and practicing law. Immediately after being admitted in November of 1992, he assisted in several political campaigns, including Bruce Herschensohn's 1992 federal Senate campaign and Jim Patterson's 1993 Fresno mayoral campaign. In 1994 he served on the Fresno mayoral staff as Executive Director of the Mayor's Commission on Efficiency and Reorganization. Later in 1994 he was Finance Director for George Radanovich's Congressional campaign. In 1995 and 1996, John ran for the Republican nomination for Congress in the 20th Congressional District but lost in the primary.

In 1996, John opened the F. John Gist Law Offices. His practice focused on Estate Planning and Probate. That practice has transitioned to a nearly exclusively bankruptcy law practice. John does Chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcies and finds that area of practice incredibly satisfying and highly competitive. "During law school I swore that I would never become a Bankruptcy Attorney. Now that is what I do and I love it. I wouldn't mind earning more money, but the greatest gratitude I have from my profession is that I can provide serious help to people in great need."

John and Toni married 23 years ago during his first semester of law school. He says she is a brave woman! Toni was

Hear Ye Hear Ye!

Legacy Luncheons continue

We are mixing it up this time around and inviting alumni who started law school at the same time. Every event will be held at noon at the Downtown club.

Entering 1990 – Thursday, Tuesday, January 29
Entering 1991 – Thursday, February 7
Entering 1992 – Thursday, March 14
Entering 1993 – Tuesday, April 9
Entering 1994 – Tuesday, May, 14

We will not have any through the busy summer, but will resume with subsequent years in the Fall of 2013.

Look for your invitation in the mail!

a Registered Dental Assistant at the time but has given that up to be a full-time caregiver for her mother.

John and Toni were both raised in the Los Angeles basin and love the ocean. During law school, Darryl Freedman told them about Pismo Beach, so they spent weekends there as often as possible. Now they take week-long vacations to places like Kauai, Hawaii and Carlsbad, California. The also like to visit wine producing regions like Edna Valley, Plymouth, and Temecula. Their favorite place is Carlsbad, close to both Temecula wineries and the beach.

John will never forget a comic tacked on a board at SJCL. The character was raising his hand and asking the professor if he could be excused because "My brain is full."

John says his greatest accomplishment in law school was earning "Honorable Mention" in the orals of the Hopper Moot Court competition. His partner, Tim Mazella, inspired him by finishing his portion of the brief despite dealing with his mother suffering from terminal cancer. Tim's mother rewarded them by attending the oral competition, moving both John and Tim to tears.

John's favorite event of law school was Graduation. He spent the entire three years in pain. Once he passed the bar, he immediately underwent successful back fusion surgery. He had to wean himself from an addiction to pain meds, but by then he was ready to enter the practice of law!

Robert Lindsay

Robert retired in 2007 after 15 years as a research attorney for the Court of Appeal in Fresno. He now lives in Venice, Italy. "Paese che vai, usanze che trovi."

Kathryn Roberts-Evans

Kathryn opened her first office in Merced just after graduation and did family law and mediation. Sometime later she opened her second office in Fresno. Her first husband worked with her at that time. In about 2002 she closed the Merced office and concentrated her efforts in the Fresno office. In 2005 her first husband passed away. Kathryn retired in 2010.

Kathryn married Don Evans, a retired military man, and they love to visit family in Longmont, Colorado and Tallahassee, Florida.

During law school Kathryn was very busy raising her two teenage children, Jennifer and Burke, so did not have much social time. She felt it was very important to be active in their lives.

In retirement years Kathryn enjoys volunteering for the Democratic Party. She works with Hands On Central California and Art by Hand. She is a Docent at the Fresno Water Tower every Friday, so if you would like to catch up with her you may find her there!

Crystal Sullivan

Crystal attended Fresno State and UC Santa Barbara. She has a degree in Political Science/Public Administration. She completed her graduate studies in Human Resources and Organizational Development at the University of San Francisco.

Upon graduation from college, Crystal began her career in public service with the City of Tulare in Human Resources, and later with the Hitachi Corporation in San Francisco. Crystal then returned to the Valley to work with the City of Fresno, Human Resources Department as a Management Analyst prior to entering law school.

Crystal E. Sullivan has been practicing law since 1995, after having obtained her J.D. from San Joaquin of Law. During law school she clerked with the current Tulare County Counsel, Kathleen Bales-Lange. Since graduation from SJCL, Crystal has worked for County Counsel as a Deputy County Counsel and recently was appointed to Chief of Litigation. While at County Counsel she has served as a legal advisor to the County Departments and Special Districts in various areas of law including employment and litigation.

Currently Crystal is President of the Tulare County Bar Association. In 2007 Crystal received the John Herr Perpetual Award for Outstanding Appellate Practice from the California Association of Counties (CSAC). This was for her work on *Stephens v. County of Tulare* which she argued before the California Supreme Court in 2006. In 2012, Crystal received the 2012 CSAC Litigation Award.

Her school memories include sleep deprivation and many a night of scary foggy driving! She enjoys to this day her friendship with Leah Cole as they both had toddlers while going to school and now both their daughters are getting married. In sum it was the worst of times and best of times in her life.

Scott VanWagenen

Scott worked at the Law Offices of Perez, Williams & Medina, a personal injury plaintiff firm, from 1988 to 2006. He started as a law clerk during law school and continued on as a trial attorney where he gained much experience in the courtroom and handling complex litigation cases.

In 2006 Scott collaborated with Craig Davis, a 1988 SJCL grad. They worked together until May 30, 2007 when Craig retired and moved to Newport Beach. Scott continues to handle personal injury and worker's compensation cases with a staff of 8 employees.

Scott was married in 2003 to Katherine McLain, a paralegal and Sports Illustrated swimsuit model. They have two sons, Blake, 8, and Landon, 6. Blake wants to go to law school like his dad and Landon would like to be the next Spider Man. Scott has two older children. Shawn, 26, is in his last year of law school at Mc George in Sacramento. His daughter, Courtney, 22, is a cosmetologist at Regis Salon in Fashion Fair.

Scott is the former Vice President and a current board member of the non-profit organization TIP (Trauma Intervention Program of Fresno) and Den Leader of the Auberry Cub Scouts. His is a member of Consumer Attorneys of California, Fresno County Bar Association, California Applicants Attorney Association, American Bar Association, and Central California Trial Lawyers Association.

Scott, in his spare time loves snow and water skiing, 4 wheel drives, shooting, world travel, and spending time with family.

Scott attended SJCL at the Shields campus. He recalls showing up for class

with Diane (the old librarian) and her dogs patrolling the halls. Judge Oliver Wanger conducted class one night every week for two semesters without looking at notes and quoting multiple sections of the Code of Civil Procedure from memory. He remembers briefing cases in Torts with Jan Pearson and discussing the different colors and textures of banana peels on the floors in slip and fall cases. Hal Farley and Karen Ketenjian tried to sell him Tupperware from the trunk of their car in the parking lot before class. He had to endure Andy Flanagan quoting Barry Goldwater in his moot court arguments. Justice James Ardaiz took time out of his schedule to personally tutor Scott during his preparation for the State Bar Exam.

David Weiland

From December 1992 to April 1999, David was a sole practitioner in the former Barrister Building on M Street near where the Fresno Convention Center now stands. That was a great location. He loved downtown. It's also where he met his future wife, Lillian. But, that's a story of another kind.

From April 1999 to the present, David has been a shareholder at first Dowling, Aaron & Keeler, Inc. and now Dowling Aaron, Incorporated. Those 13+ years have been quite an experience. From the beginning, working for a law firm was a challenge for him. Having been self-employed from 1982 to 1999, he had grown to be pretty self-reliant and independent. It took about two years for him to fully appreciate all of the resources at his disposal and to utilize them for the full benefit of his clients.

In the fall of 2005, David was elected president of the firm and served for three years. David learned a lot during that three-year period, much of which he would just as soon forget. Since 2008 he has been happily occupied with taking care of his clients and meeting a lot of really good attorneys from all over California. While he spent a considerable amount of time from 1993 to 2011 serving as a contract city attorney for a couple of Fresno County cities, he now limits his practice to represent-

ing construction and design clients for both transactional and litigated matters, and in providing professional liability defense for architects, all types of engineers, land surveyors, and attorneys. In addition, he is looking forward to assisting a number of private property owners, who are affected by the proposed high speed rail line, in navigating and negotiating through the eminent domain process needed to acquire the rights of way for the new rail line.

David is married to Lillian (Class of 2002 and part of the only Traynor Moot Court team from SJCL to ever win the overall competition). Lillian volunteers at San Joaquin Memorial High School and works part-time for a local developer who provides tax credit financing for worthwhile businesses. They just finished helping to finance a project for the Fresno Rescue Mission.

David's children are: David J. Weiland III, who lives in Plano, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. David Jr, has a PhD in history from Cambridge and teaches history classes at Collin County Community College. David Jr, is married to Rosemary, a music teacher and mom to two of David Sr.'s grandchildren, Karl and Catalina. Karl is eight and in the 3rd grade. Catalina is 10 and in the 5th grade.

David and Lillian's daughter is Julia Elizabeth Macias Weiland. Julia is 13 and a freshman at San Joaquin Memorial High School. Julia has been a competitive swimmer since she was seven years old and just finished her first season of water polo at SJM, where she learned how to employ all of the underwater tricks without getting caught and how to exchange punches when necessary. Who would have guessed? Julia is also an "A" student and wants to go to medical school to be a forensic pathologist like Dr. Temperance Brennan in the TV show "Bones."

David also counts Alice Binger as one of his own. She is part of his extended family tree. Alice is married to Bob and is a great mom to three more awesome grandchildren - Carl, Michael and

Stephanie. Carl is 21 and a junior at Fresno State. Michael is 18 and a freshman at UCLA. Stephanie is 16 and a junior at Central High School.

Having survived a heart attack and bypass surgery at age 50, David considers living another 13 years to be quite an achievement. He has never really been a pursuer of awards. In terms of achievements, David served a one-year term as president of the Fresno State Bulldog Foundation in 1996. His law colleagues graciously nominated him as a Northern California Super Lawyer, a title David achieved some years ago and which he has accepted in spite of, what he considers, its cheesy status. David currently serves on the Board of Trustees for SJCL and on the Board of Directors at Dowling Aaron, Incorporated. David is admitted to practice in all of the state courts of California, in the Eastern and Northern Districts of the Federal Court and before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. David was also a founding member and first managing editor of the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review at SJCL.

In addition to the above, David enjoys golf at Fort Washington where he can take out his pent up aggression on a golf ball as opposed to his partners and legal opponents. He also enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and watching his daughter swim and play water polo.

Law school was like a vacation for David. He loved the intellectual challenge and the time away from work. He worked the first 2-1/2 years in his engineering consulting business and attended classes at night. When he made *law review*, he sold the business and concentrated on helping to get the first edition of the *Law Review* published. That last 18 months in school were pretty wild.

The bar exam is still vivid in his mind. He took it at the San Jose convention center with hundreds of other hopefuls, including a handful of his classmates from SJCL. He still remembers people throwing up in the bathroom. David brought all his own food and refused

to eat out until the exam was over. The first and third days were a breeze. David could have sworn that Justice Ardaiz wrote the evidence question - a "race horse" just like the ones he wrote for his class. The morning session of the multi-state was brutal. There was not a single question or fact pattern that he recognized. That day he ate half his lunch on a bench next to a homeless person and gave the rest to him, imagining a similar fate if he failed the exam. The very first question on the afternoon portion was identical to one he had previously studied. At last, he knew he was among friends.

David joined a few of his classmates at the end of the third day at a nearby pub and then made the long drive home to Fresno. David said he knew he had passed, but never dared say it out loud for fear of jinxing himself. When the results came in on that fateful Friday before Thanksgiving 1992, he shared a congratulatory bottle of champagne with Rose Mohan and immediately started making plans for opening his own practice. The following 20 years seem like a blur.

David would like to publically thank John Loomis, Oliver Wanger and Judge Dan Eymann, three forward-thinking attorneys who pooled their ideas, resources and talents many years ago to form SJCL. Without their successful efforts, David's dream of attending law school would never have happened. David also wants to thank Jan Pearson, Sally Perring and all the faculty and staff at SJCL for helping make that dream possible. He is pretty sure Jan knows how much he credits her for the success of SJCL, now and into the future. David's current goal is to extend the dream of the founders by helping to make SJCL an ABA accredited institution soon.

2002 Erica Camarena

Erica's practice as a Deputy City Attorney focuses on litigation matters including police liability, personal injury, energy/utilities, and various aspects of public entity defense. She is integrally



involved in assisting the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant in applying to the California Public Utilities Commission for modification of an opinion that has a direct effect on the City's biogas energy generation facility. Erica is also assisting the Mayor's Office in her cooperative efforts with PG&E to adopt an Enhanced Economic Development Rate to attract new businesses to the San Joaquin Valley. In addition, she is currently working with outside counsel on a class action lawsuit on behalf of Californians against financial brokers and institutions, alleging widespread price-fixing and bid rigging in the municipal derivatives industry.

Erica maintains a strong interest in police liability and civil rights defense. In the past year she has successfully defended police officers in Federal Court while successfully handling numerous cases in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. In addition to being active in civic and professional organizations, she has developed training materials and presented an MCLE course on "Small Issues Having Big Impacts In Litigation."

Erica is married to Jose Camarena, Chief Public Information Officer for Caltrans. Their 22-year old daughter, Jasmine, is currently attending Le Cordon Bleu Culinary School in Hollywood. Earlier this year, Erica and Jose were successful in obtaining legal guardianship of their three-year old godson, Sefer, whom they have raised since he was a few weeks old.

Erica thoroughly enjoys being an influence on adolescents and has made numerous public speaking appearances for various organizations such as the San Joaquin Valley Institute and various local high schools. She teaches Sunday School to elementary school students at the Sanger Church of Christ. Playing recreational, competitive softball is her ultimate pastime.

Serving as Dean for Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity while attending law school allowed Erica to meet some of the most wonderful people (now colleagues) with whom she will have lifetime friendships.

Kimberly Madayag

While in law school, Kim interned at the Merced County Public Defender's Office. It was an incredible opportunity to learn and even get to do trials as a Certified Law Student. Kim later went to work for the Merced County District Attorney's Office where she has worked for the past 10 years. Kim has prosecuted almost every type of case. Some of her favorite cases aren't the ones that make headlines, but rather, involve winning the really tough cases few, if anyone, thought could be won.

Kim's time as a Deputy Public Defender has helped her to look at cases in different ways to realize what will and won't work. She has to figure out how to turn gang cases and domestic violence cases where victims don't want to testify into cases that other people still care about.

Kim has had to talk victims into testifying on gang cases when they were deathly afraid and have often been threatened. Kim has had cases where victims basically berate her from the stand for forcing them to testify against loved ones who beat them so badly they were hospitalized. Kim was the first prosecutor in Merced to prosecute tagging crews under the street terrorism act aimed at targeting criminal street gangs. The truth is, the idea came from a detective she had worked with, and that's usually the way it goes. Kim feels lucky to work at an office that has given her the freedom to try new things.

Kim's most memorable moment as a prosecutor came during the Merced Courthouse shooting. A mental health patient burst into the Courtroom where she was sitting. He was armed with two butcher knives, and was shot to death just a few feet from her. It was a terrible tragedy but she says it exemplifies why we must all remain vigilant and appreciate the split second decisions the police are forced to make every day.

Kim divorced after law school. Her daughter, Madeline, is now attending college to become a psychologist. Kim spent the last several years traveling with her daughter's volleyball team. Kim serves on the Merced City Planning Commission. Kim mentors at-risk youth in the Merced area and organizes donations for deployed troops. In her spare time Kim loves to cook and travel. Since graduating, Kim has been to Japan, several places in Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic where she will soon be returning for a month-long visit. Kim loves traveling to experience different cultures. It helps her to keep her perspective and always makes her appreciate how much we really do have in the United States.

Kim's favorite memories from law school involve her study group the "Alpha Males" (Joe Arnold, Jarrett Cline, Darin Powell, Geoff Adalian, and a few others who would come in on occasion). Studying with a bunch of alpha males is never easy when you are a female. She had to learn a new set of rules. Joe had

to pull her aside to explain to her that men don't give each other relationship advice unless asked. Jarrett toughened her up to the extent that he used to tell her that she would need to go to sensitivity training after law school. They always came through for her though, especially when her father passed away in October of her last year at SJCL. Her mother needed her help. Sally Perring talked her out of taking the year off. The guys sent her all of their notes and spent weekends before the midterms getting her caught up.

But they were a lot of fun too. The group would have marathon study sessions in an empty classroom making up pneumonics. The guys would come up with the most explicit ways to remember things. Kim still remembers many today although none of them could ever be repeated. The study group would be laughing so hard that everyone thought they were just goofing around and not studying. But studying with those guys was the most fun a person could have. Many people didn't think the group would pass the bar because they were always having so much fun, but every one of them passed. Kim still remembers receiving the call that the last person in her group had passed. Only then did they all celebrate. Lillian Weiland and Tara Crabtree were the crucial female balance Kim needed. Kim says the study group still stays in touch to this day, although not as much as she would like.

Vong Mouanoutoua

Since graduation Vong has been very busy. From 2002-2004 he was a Probate Examiner for the Fresno County Superior Court. From 2004-2010 he was a Paralegal/Office Manager at the Law Offices of Paul C. Lo. In 2010 Vong decided he want to teach, so he worked as an instructor at the Institute of Technology, Clovis and California State University, Fresno, where he continues to teach and is also an Administrative Manager. Vong is also active with Reading and Beyond in Fresno.

Vong and his wife, Jane, have two daughters – Aubry (10) and Kiera (4) and two sons – Josiah (8) and Austin (6).

Vong has a long list of awards and achievements. He has participated in Leadership Clovis – Class 8, San Joaquin Political Academy – Class 5, and Great Valley Center IDEAL – Class of 2010. He was named the 2011 Leadership Clovis Alumni of the Year and was a First 5 – Hands On Hero Awards 2010

Vong has been very active in the community serving on many boards.

- City of Clovis Planning Commission – Commissioner 2005 to Present (Current Chair)
- Fresno County Economic
 Opportunities Commission
 – Board Member
 2004 to Present (Current Chair)
- The Foundation at Fresno County Office of Education
 Board Member
 - Board Member 2009 to Present (Current Vice Chair)
- Children Services Network
 Board Member
 2007 to 2011 (past Vice President)
- Fresno County Local Child Care and Development Local Planning Council – Member 2004 to 2011 (past Vice Chair & current Sergeant-at-Arms)
- The Mouanoutoua Foundation Board Member
 2005 to Present (current President)
- Fresno County Human Resources Advisory Board – Board Member 2004 to 2009
- Fresno County PROFITS
 Committee Board Member
 2005 to 2008
- West Fresno Faith Based
 Organization Board Member
 2006 to 2008 (past Vice President)
- Red Bank Elementary, School Site Council – President 2009 to 2011
- Measure C Citizen's Oversight Committee – Member 2009 to Present
- Fresno State University President's Commission on Human Relations and Equity - Member 2011 to 2012
- Selective Service Board Member 2011 to Present
- Community Regional Medical Centers – Finance and

- Planning Board Member 2011 to Present
- Clovis Exchange Club, 2008 to Present (Past Vice President)
- Red Bank Elementary School Parent Teacher Club
 2007 to Present
- Lao Evangelical Church Headquarter – Youth Advisor 2003 to Present
- Hmong Educational Task Force 2002 to 2003
- Lao Evangelical Church of Fresno
 Sunday School Director
 2009 to Present
- Fresno County Voluntary Preschool Master Plan 2008 to 2011
- Hmong New Year
 Public Relations Department 2008 to Present

When asked about school memories Vong said, "People make for a worth-while journey – professors, administrators, staff, classmates, friends and family. I appreciate the contributions that each made into my life during that chapter in my life. I am better today because they were willing to share their gifts with me during our brief walk together on this earth."

Cadee Ohanesian Peters

The majority of Cadee's practice has been in Criminal Defense. She also does a very small amount of select personal injury and workers' compensation cases. Cadee is currently a sole practitioner but she holds a contract wheel position in Madera County and a part time position at Fresno's Alternate Defense Office.

Matthew and Cadee have been married for 10 years and they have 4 beautiful children. Zachary is 8 and their triplet girls – Ashlee, Emilee and Gracee – 6.

They are involved in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Fresno Community Hospital, as well as a variety of activities with their children ranging from soccer and baseball to dance. Cadee served a term on the CK Armenian School Board.

Because their children are still young, Cadee's interests and hobbies are focused on the kids' school and activities. Cadee will even admit that she has turned into a soccer mom.

Cadee was fortunate enough to make and keep several wonderful friends from law school to whom she remains very close.

Faith Potter

Faith has worked in the agricultural industry since graduating from Fresno State with an undergraduate and master's degree in plant science in the 80's.

She worked for DuPont, then with a local agricultural company, Best Sulfur Products (BSP), where she became a shareholder. It was while she was working for BSP that she attended SJCL.

Faith was on the long five-year plan and graduated and took the bar in 2002. Faith continued to work at BSP in product development and sales after being admitted to the bar. BSP sold the company to its competitors, Tessenderlo Kerley, Inc., an International company based in Belgium, five years ago. Faith has remained in the same position with TKI.

While Faith has not "practiced law," her legal education has served her well throughout her career. California agriculture is vitally important to not only our state, but also to the world. It is a career she would highly recommend to anyone, and one that she has really enjoyed.

Faith has been married for some 40 plus years to her husband, Cleve. Cleve owns an air conditioning and heating company in Fresno.

Their son, Brett, works with her husband. Brett's wife, Sally, teaches at Fresno City College. Brett and Sally have two boys, Elijah and Alex, and live in Fresno.

Their daughter, Carrie, a teacher, is home schooling Faith's two other grand-children, Nicholas and Sarah. Carrie is married to Lawrence Salisbury, an attorney in San Diego.

Faith has a few hobbies. Since she is traveling much of the time for work, she tries to knit and occasionally plays golf. She claims to not be very good at either one! Faith does like to travel out of the country to see the world-hopefully much more as she get closer to retirement.

Faith has many memories of her time at SJCL. Most importantly she would never have made it through without the support and help of fellow students, Amy Arambula and Grace Harrison! Jan Pearson was an important role model for Faith and always gave encouragement to all. Faith claims she was not a stellar student at SJCL, but she gained much for her career and life!

Cynthia (CJ) Secula

CJ started her education at SJCL in the Paralegal Program. After graduating from the program and practicing as a paralegal for Merced County for 6 years, she returned to SJCL to secure her J.D.

Upon passing the bar, CJ worked in civil litigation for the Dias Law Firm. Knowing that her heart was really in criminal law, she was a public defender for Madera & Fresno Counties from 2005 – 2007. Since 2007, CJ has been in private practice with an emphasis on DUI defense as she enjoys the scientific aspect of that practice.

CJ has also done some domestic violence defense which led her to the Fifth District Court of Appeal. CJ argued that a defendant should not be compelled to give a deposition in a family law proceeding when there was an on-going criminal case based on the same facts, parties and incidents. After 5 years of continuous litigation, her client prevailed. This appeal was a learning experience for both CJ and her client.

CJ's oldest child, son Joe, went to the SJCL paralegal program after CJ graduated. Joe owns a web design business and credits the knowledge he attained at SJCL with assisting his business success. He has returned to college and is getting his degree in chemical engineering.

CJ's second son, Robert, is attending Fresno State getting his degree in criminal justice with a minor in psychology and business. He is pursuing a career in the armed forces and the ROTC program. CJ's daughter, Jessica, graduated Fresno State in 2005 with a degree in psychology and criminology, along with a certificate in alcohol and drug studies. Her daughter applied to the Masters program and will begin those studies in the spring of 2013.

CJ helped a returning Iraq veteran get treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder which he suffered from having done four tours of duty as a sniper. Back home, he had some dealings with the law. There is a little-known sentencing code that allows a defendant to seek other forms of treatment and punishment as a returning veteran suffering from PTSD. He is CJ's success story!

CJ runs daily and swims in the Clovis Masters Program at North Center. She is a member of the California DUI Attorneys Association as well as the California Public Defenders Association. She enjoys attending scientific seminars and has learned so much about the human body and how it metabolizes alcohol both naturally occurring and ingested.

CJ has many great memories of her time at SJCL - three in particular. First, in every exam Joan Lassley proctored for her, Joan stated her belief in her. "Thank you, Joan!" CJ will never forget Joan's beautiful smile! Second, Jan never gave up on her....not once. Jan pointed out CJ's strengths and weaknesses and gave CJ the courage to keep trying to make it through both law school and taking the State Bar - never realizing how special it would be to CJ to see her name on the pass list in February 2003. Lastly, when Pam Ramirez left SJCL, Pam told CJ she had waited to leave until after CJ graduated. "I didn't believe her... but it goes to show how much ALL OF YOU at SJCL believe in the success of the students! I thank ALL of you for my success. Without EVERYONE'S encouragement and belief in me I would not be where I am now... a practicing attorney!"

Thank you for your support!

August 1, 2012- December 10, 2012

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