



Inter Alia

SAN JOAQUIN COLLEGE OF LAW • Volume 31, Issue 1

No Time for Trivial Pursuits

With class years that span more than two decades, the eight SJCL alumni employed at the Education and Public Agency Law Firm, Lozano Smith, are as alike as they are different.

BY DIANE SKOUTI, ALUMNI LIAISON

From their reasons for choosing law to their reflections on the law school experience, all agreed that the fulfillment of becoming an attorney far exceeds the challenges of getting there.

It's fascinating to learn what inspires people to pursue noble fields like medicine or law. Some, like Matthew Lear (Law '17), dabbled in both. A distaste for undergrad chemistry caused Matt to switch from pre-med to law, and he's oh-so-glad he did.

Others entered college thinking philosophy was their bag, but as James McCann (Law '13) discovered, resolving conflict and securing justice for others is far more rewarding than just discussing it.

Roberta Rowe (Law '95), a partner and long-time veteran of Lozano Smith, worked in vocational rehabilitation before law school. Having served as a consultant and provider of expert witness testimony, she understood the value of a law degree in the ever-changing field of workers compensation. She has been at Lozano Smith for 16 years focusing on student, labor and employment matters for school districts and community colleges. Roberta has in-depth knowledge of the Brown Act, conflicts of interest, and policy development, which led her to teach at CSU Fresno in addition to conducting sought after seminars on the subject.



(L-R) **Matthew Lear** (Law '17), **Roberta Rowe** (Law '95), **Jenell Van Bindsbergen** (Law '96), **James McCann** (Law '13). NOT PICTURED: **Mary Lerner** (Law '02), **Wesley Carlson** (Law '14), **Leila Alamri-Kassim** (Law '16), and **Brittaney Contreras** (Law '17).

Despite the terror of first year finals (especially contracts), Roberta says her law school experience included a lot of good people and some lifelong friends.

Jenell Van Bindsbergen (Law '96) is also a partner and longtime Lozano Smith attorney. Jenell attributed some of her success in law school to her study group. What usually begins as a desire to share the enor-

mous workload of reading, study groups often become an invaluable resource for motivation, support, and success, in life as well as law school.

Jenell's interest in law grew from a thinking game she played with her stepfather as a teen. "We liked to debate. He would bait me into arguing on a topic and we'd discuss it at length (cordially of

Egan and Brickey Elected as 55th and 56th Grads to Join the Bench

Congratulations to Elizabeth Egan (Law '95) and Gabriel Brickey (Law '04) who were elected to seats on the Fresno County Superior Court during Super Tuesday contests.



Elizabeth Egan (Law '95)

Egan ran against prosecutor Doug Treisman for the seat being vacated by Hon. Alan Simpson (Law '83). Meanwhile, Brickey ran unopposed to fill Fresno County Superior Court Judge Don Penner's position. Both Penner and Simpson are retiring.

Egan served as Fresno County District attorney for 12 years and is a member of the San Joaquin College of Law Hall of Fame. Brickey is Chief Deputy District Attorney for Fresno County. While they are not slated to be enrobed until early next year, the Governor could appoint them to begin their terms early.

Their additions to the court will bring the number of SJCL Alumni Bench Officers to a total of 56, including 23 Superior Court Judges.



Gabriel Brickey (Law '04)

Jeremy Lusk Appointed ALJ

Jeremy Lusk was appointed Administrative Law Judge for the State Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

Hon. Jeremy K. Lusk (Law '03) admits he was interested in becoming a judge. But after he arrived at San Joaquin College of Law, he became interested in Worker's Compensation, and began practicing in that field after graduating in 2003. "I really enjoyed the interactions with my clients," he says. That "interaction" continued for another 17 years, including opening his own law offices, partnering for a few years with Paul Rodriguez (Law '99) and then turning the practice over to Spencer Gong (Law '03).

In the past year, that longing for the bench returned, and Lusk was appointed Administrative Law Judge for the State Workers' Compensation Appeals Board. He loves his new slot, which he describes as "a hoot" where he feels "right at home, but busy, busy, busy!" He then points to what he sees as one of the key perks of the

position; "At the end of the day, I go home, and I'm done!" He adds his children love this part of his new job. His son was born a month before he began law school and his daughter arrived shortly after graduation, so they're not used to seeing that much of him.

He is the 19th SJCL alumni to become an Administrative Law Judge, and the Law School's 56th bench officer.

In addition to his years in private practice, Judge Lusk also served as an Adjunct Professor at SJCL for about a decade, teaching Legal Analysis, Legal Research and Writing, Legal Process, and Analytical Process. His former students are now congratulating him as they come to appear before him. That, coupled with his many former colleagues in the Workers Comp practices, means he is constantly congratulated on his new position.



Hon. Jeremy K. Lusk (Law '03)

"Best judge ever," is what Judge Lusk is told.

Still, he realizes there has been at least a slight shift in power. He adds with a laugh "Yeah, not all of you people were serious."

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Inter Alia

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Vision: *To be the premier provider of legal education, scholarship, and service in the San Joaquin Valley.*
Mission: *To educate and develop individuals to become highly skilled attorneys and problem solvers who will benefit their communities through public and private service. In seeking this vision and attaining this mission, SJCL shall embody the values of civility, excellence, integrity, intellectual inquiry, and service.*

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Bar Admissions Celebration!



SJCL Alumni new attorneys include (L-R): **Jodie Howard, Iqbal Bains, Fabian Perez, Claudia Case, BreAnne Ruelas, Ivan Gomez, Ryan Lopez, and Morgan Day**

Eight of the 13 San Joaquin College of Law July Barpassers were celebrated, given advice, and sworn into the State Bar at the Court of Appeal Fifth Appellate District on December 4th. Presiding Justice Brad Hill and Justice Herbert Levy welcomed the new attorneys to the Bar Admission Ceremony with “We’re here to party today!” But Justice Levy also advised the new attorneys that they are “vital to the maintenance of our nation” and should carefully protect their reputation.

Presiding Judge Alan Simpson (Law ’83) echoed the gravity of a good reputation, reminding them that “Your word is your bond.”

The new attorneys were also welcomed by Fresno County Bar Association President Deborah Coe (Law ’91), who told them they would meet other members of the Bar who would change their lives. She advised them to “Be on fire for what you do. Love it,” but also cautioned against over-zealous nastiness. “It’s a pretty small sandbox,” she said, referring to the local Bar, “Learn to play nicely.”

Magistrate Judge Erica Grosjean was excited to welcome the new attorneys. She is Adjunct Faculty at SJCL and recognized some from her classes, along with one who interned with her. She reminded them that they were about to take an oath, pledging themselves to something bigger than themselves, and bound by that oath to defend the Rule of Law.

State Bar Board of Trustees Representative Mark Broughton said the new attorneys would get their Bar cards soon, which include some important phone numbers on the back. He pointed to the State Bar Ethics Hotline, asking the new attorneys to call the number if they were unsure of the ethics of a situation. In the past year alone, there have been 70 changes for the rules of professional practice.

A number of the speakers pointed to the family and friends who contributed to the success of the new attorneys, reminding them to give thanks to them. Justice Levy pointed out they will need this support team in the future, “to share your moments of success and to console you after a hard day or a loss at trial.” Congrats to all!

Scholarships



The Fresno County Bar Association awarded scholarships to two students at the January Installation Banquet. Congratulations to **Melissa Norwood (2L)** and **George Harris Jr. (3L)**! FCBA President **Victoria Bernhardt** had the honor of making the presentations.



Congratulations to **Rosie Palomino (2L)**, the first McCormick Barstow Diversity Scholar! The Scholarship Committee told her “We were impressed with your application and even more impressed when we met you.” Not only did she win the scholarship, but members of the Diversity Committee treated her to lunch as well. (L-R) **Christina Tillman, Rosie, Jamie K. Xiong-Vang, & Carlos M. Camandang.**

NALC Receives DOJ Accreditation

On February 20, 2020, The New American Legal Clinic was awarded accreditation by the Department of Justice Office of Legal Access Programs.

BY LINDA BARRETO, NALC DIRECTOR

Along with NALC's accreditation, staff members Aracely Mota and Kenia Garcia were also awarded partial accreditation (DHS only) upon approval of their applications wherein the DOJ " [is] satisfied that these individuals possess the character and fitness and broad knowledge and adequate experience in immigration law and procedure to practice before the Department of Homeland Security."

NALC is one of only eight accredited organizations in the Fresno/Clovis area. NALC's new DOJ accreditation status further confirms NALC's competency and ability to continue to assist under resourced individuals in their immigration cases. Additionally, with Aracely and Kenia's accreditation NALC will be able to increase capacity. As partially accredited representatives, Aracely and Kenia are now eligible to enter their appearance on cases and accompany clients to their interviews before USCIS. Having an attorney or accredited representative is critical to ensure that clients rights are protected.

In 2019, NALC served over 700 clients in cases such as citizenship, obtaining lawful permanent residency, protection for victims of crimes or abuse and removal defense cases before immigration court. Over 75% of NALC's clients are below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines, meaning that if not for organizations like NALC, these individuals would likely not have the ability to pay for legal representation.

Student participation is a critical component to NALC's success. Student Ashley Emmerson says, "Interning at NALC was one of my favorite experiences at SJCL. Their attorneys and staff are knowledgeable and passionate, creating learning opportunities that go beyond the classroom. My favorite experience at NALC was helping a college student apply for citizenship where, because of my improved client interviewing skills, she was comfortable enough to



(L-R) NALC Director **Linda Barreto** (Law '14) with staff members **Kenia Garcia** and **Aracely Mota**

provide important information that would ensure her success through the process. I think this clinic is both important to law students for exposure to a different area of law, and to the community for the exceptional legal service it provides."

NALC students have had the opportunity to prepare and attend a bond hearing in San Francisco for the high profile case

of Hugo Hernandez, the Fresno native who was arrested by ICE while taking his children to school, in addition to delving into compelling research and brief writing in preparation for asylum cases.

With accreditation recognition and students excited to participate and gain invaluable experience in the clinic, 2020 is off to a great start for NALC!



Alumni Urged to Hamilton Up

BY STEFANIE KRAUSE, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Last summer, I had the pleasure of seeing the musical “Hamilton” in San Francisco. There is a scene, which takes place during the Revolutionary War, where George Washington realizes he is “outgunned, outmanned, outnumbered, out-planned.” He needs a “right hand man,” and the man he wants is Alexander Hamilton. Hamilton had refused to join the staff of any of the generals because he wanted to lead his own troops. George Washington convinces him to join his staff. Hamilton joins Washington’s staff and proceeds to be a spark that helps turn the tide.

As I contemplated my task to write this article for *Inter Alia*, this scene vividly came to mind. The SJCL Alumni Association needs a spark – and that spark is you.

Sure, law school is a distant memory. And let’s face it, it wasn’t that fun – studying, testing, stressing, answering questions when we weren’t prepared. There may have been some good times as well – connecting with new friends (misery loves company), the thrill of surviving that first year, getting through moot court, finishing that last final...

Whether your experience was good, bad, or somewhere in between, your fellow Alumni went through it and understand.

The SJCL Alumni Association is striving to help you stay connected to your fellow Alumni. We want to be there to support you, help you network, provide you with resources, and give you an opportunity to connect. We also want to help our future Alumni by providing scholarships and support during law school.

In order to accomplish these goals, we need you!

I admit, I was pretty much an absentee Alumni for the last 18 years. I paid my dues, attended Got MCLE?, and sometimes donated to the Marjaree Mason Christmas Party. But I wasn’t involved. That changed last year when I joined the Board. I started to help with events. I met new people and reconnected with former classmates. The interactions and relationships resulted in new clients, new friends, and new opportunities for my business and for me.

“But, Stefanie,” you may be saying, “I’m too busy for all of that. And I really don’t want to wrap up a day or week of work by going and hanging out with a bunch of lawyers.” To which I respond, I felt the same way. But, when I finally got involved, it was a good use of my limited time. You don’t have to do it all! Just choose one or two events that sound enjoyable and show up!

Last year, the Alumni Association put on Got MCLE?, helped with the 50th Anniversary Picnic and Reception, provided scholarships, held a golf tournament, hosted a Grizzly game and Senior Citizens’ Law Day, helped sponsor the Hall of Fame, provided snacks and help to SJCL students, and hosted the Marjaree Mason Christmas Party. This was all possible because of your dues, donations, and a small, but dedicated, group of Alumni. But think what we could do if more of you got involved!

We want you back! We want you to be that spark to help our SJCL Alumni Association reach new heights. With your participation, we’ll grow bigger and better and provide more opportunities for you and for future generations of Alumni.

Whether you want to network, grow your business, reconnect with friends, get support, or make new contacts, the SJCL Alumni Association can help. Please look for our various events this year and come and join us.

You can be the spark that helps light up the SJCL Alumni Association. I hope to see you all this year lighting up our events and making this a year to remember!

When all the different kinds of industry obtain in a community, each individual can find his proper element, and can call into activity the whole vigor of his nature. And the community is benefitted by the services of its respective members, in the manner, in which each can serve it with most effect.

—Alexander Hamilton

Stefanie Krause graduated with the class of 2000. She has taught Advanced Research & Writing at SJCL and is the 2020-21 President of the SJCL Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Nourishing the Psyche



While nothing can replace a pep talk and supportive pat on the back for encouragement, the SJCL Alumni Association's quarterly student goodie days run a close second. The organization funds surprise treats each term to connect with current students, (as well as provide a little free food!). The coffee and Make-Your-Own-Trail-Mix-Bar was especially popular last month. Next up – "Cake Before Spring Finals"!

Calling all Alumni



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

In order to better serve the needs and interests of our graduates, we need your input. The Alumni Survey will be emailed to you soon. Please make sure we have your current contact information (Not sure we have it? Send your preferred email and postal address to: dskouti@sjcl.edu). Your opinions matter a great deal! Watch for the survey and complete it promptly to be entered in a drawing to win some fun prizes!

2020-2021

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Welcome to SJCL's New Dean of Students

Longmont, Colorado is a long way from Berkeley, Chicago, and a 102-year-old haunted house in Fresno, but that is the circuitous path Logan Tennerelli followed to become Dean of Students at San Joaquin College of Law.

She grew up in the Centennial State but moved to California to pursue a degree at U.C. Berkeley. Upon graduation she accepted a consulting job in Chicago, which led her to pursue her J.D. at the University of Chicago. That's where she met her future husband, and the pair took law jobs in Chicago after graduation. Logan practiced corporate bankruptcy, and real estate law, but in the end, her husband's career led to another path; he landed a job as an Assistant U.S. Attorney based in Fresno.

By then they had a son and daughter, but packed everyone up for the trip to the Valley. Logan noticed the opportunities at Fresno State, so she obtained her Master's degree in Counselling with a focus on student affairs and higher education.

Logan then accepted a job at Fresno City College as a counselor and instructor for three classes, which are all requirements in the Pathway to Law School Program. She is proud of starting in a program which initially included only two students, but

now boasts over 300. In addition, the Law Pathway swayed Fresno City officials to allow its students to assist those appearing in Municipal Citation hearings, giving them extra experience in research and pleadings.

By then, Logan was also an adjunct professor at SJCL, teaching Legal Methods. She was impressed. She says it's a challenge helping older students because they learn differently than 18-year-olds, but she loves that many of them are "pursuing a life-long dream. They are dedicated, with a different level of maturity." She also loves "the smaller classes, where you get to know everyone's name."

She is still getting settled in as Dean of Students but invites current students to stop in and meet her, adding she is "approachable and open to new ideas."

And while she loves new ideas, she and her husband apparently love old buildings, buying a home in the Tower District



Dean of Students **Logan Tennerelli** joined the SJCL's administrative team

which was built in 1918. It's a house with a history, where a former owner, a Mrs. Gundelfinger, dramatically dressed herself in a black negligee before committing suicide after her lover left her. Logan has never seen her, but neighbors say they've seen her shock of flaming red hair through the windows of the home. She says Mrs. Gundelfinger is "a good ghost," because she has never bothered them. Her two cats disagree.

New Administrative Assistant/Receptionist



Debi Hernandez, Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

Please welcome our new Administrative Assistant/Receptionist, Debi Hernandez! She obtained her degree from Fresno State in Criminology and was previously an Administrative Assistant at Breaking the Chains, where she worked with victims of human trafficking. She says she is thrilled with the structure, professionalism, and atmosphere of the Law School. And we are thrilled to have her!

So, Cite Me!

This synopsis of a recent student comment featured in the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* is part of an ongoing series for Fresno County Bar Association's Bar Bulletin.

What You See is What You Guest: Is H.R. 6417 Unconstitutional?

BY AUGUST WOLF PETERSEN, J.D. CANDIDATE, SAN JOAQUIN AGRICULTURAL LAW REVIEW

HR. 6417, introduced by North Carolina Representative Bob Goodlatte on July 11, 2018, also known as the Goodlatte Bill, or the Agriculture Guestworker and Legal Workforce Act, aims to accomplish twin goals: to update the present temporary visa regime for agricultural laborers who are foreign nationals and to make mandatory employers' participation in E-Verify, a pilot program since 1996 creating an electronic database for purposes of to I-9 work authorization.

This comment accounts the historic relationship of immigration law and California agriculture, particularly emphasizing the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 and provisions connected to amnesty for persons who are undocumented in the United States. Against this historical background, the comment presents a

close reading of provisions from H.R. 6417 which would include the creation of a first-in-time right for state and local law enforcement officers in tandem with federal law enforcement agencies to investigate documentation violations and collect resulting fines.

As opposed to such drastic and invasive measures, this comment ultimately suggests that Congress should undertake a better policy connected to authorizing the workforce, e.g., to grant amnesty to undocumented persons, or in the alternative to subsidize U.S. worker employment.

In addition, this comment outlines a legal standard from constitutional law ju-

risprudence circumscribing the fundamental right to pursue a common calling. Also, this comment undertakes to examine in the abstract whether the right of common calling may be protected against disparate treatment effected by the federal government. Finding a case for constitutional protection of the right of common calling, this comment then discusses whether farming is cognizable as a common calling and remarks House Bill 6417's likely effects including labor shortage and unfair competition.



This Comment, along with all the prior Volumes are available at www.sjcl.edu/sjalr.



SJCL Family Gives Joy by the Busload



Clovis North High School's Concert Choir performed for attendees at the MMC Children's Christmas Party in full finery.

One could have easily mistaken the scene for the North Pole (minus the snow) on a special evening in December. As the Clovis North High School Choir (dressed in their formal finery) filled the room with joyful holiday tunes, guests received a heartfelt welcome from Kopi Sotiropulos of TV Channel 26's "Great Day" morning show.

An abundance of dinner items and goodies beckoned from festive tables, and specially purchased gifts waited under a magnificent Christmas tree. As if that wasn't enough, the jangle of giant jingle bells and a hearty Ho Ho Hooooo out in the hall announced the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus, resplendent in rich velvets. The contrast between the red/green and the white fur trimming the big man's suit and snowy white (real, of course) beard was stunning. He called each guest up by name and offered gifts, a personal chat, and a photo to keep.

Before the evening was over, everyone was invited to choose their favorite cookies, gourmet candy apples, snuggly blankets, and books: all of which were tucked into large shopping bags to be inspected and enjoyed more thoroughly after the bus ride back.

Now in its 26th year, the SJCL Alumni Association's Marjaree Mason Children's Christmas party was every bit as delightful as each of the prior 25.

Through the kindness and generosity of SJCL alumni, faculty, staff, and friends, the December residents of both Marjaree Mason Centers were treated to an unforgettable evening of holiday cheer.



Santa and Mrs. Claus presented specially purchased gifts made possible by the SJCL family.



The Alumni Association Board and volunteers helped each attendee pick out a snuggly blanket, donated by Shoe Box Sharing.



Each child was given a book among lots of other goodies.



Channel 26's **Kopi Sotiropulos** served as host again for the party.

Thank you to each donor and volunteer who helped make this year's event special!

William Armbruster, Geraldine Brown, Missy Mckai Cartier, Devika Choudhury, Frances Christiansen, Nancy Cisneros, Clovis North High School Concert Choir, Peter Cummings, Eileen Deimerly, Victoria Denny, Dias Law Firm, Pricilla Wright Draft, Joanna Ebner, Sheri Fisher, Greg Fox, Kristina Garabedian, Treanna Garza, Allison Gong, Brande Gustafson, Doug & Marcia Haas, William Hazen, Rhea Ikemiya, James Mele Law Corporation, Eloise Janzen, Edward Johnson, Angelica Jorgensen, Traci Kirkorian, Stefanie Krause, Nickie Krebsbach, Samuel Kylo, Richard & Kim Lee, K. Diane Lushbough, Patricia Montelongo, Joyce Morodomi, Natalie Packer, Karnig Panosian, Rose Petrosyan, James Petrucelli, Pat Pinto, Beth Pitcock, Faith Potter, R.L. Chip Putnum, Walter & Roberta Rowe, Eddie Ruiz, Angus Saint-Evens, Margaret Shainberg, ShoeBox Sharing, Nanci Silacci, Geoffrey Sims, Nancy Smith, Lisa Smittcamp, Kopi Sotiropulos, Bradley Stevens, John Suhr, Kimberly Sweidy, Barry & Lesa Walzberg, and James Witherow.

O'Neill Book Drive off to a HUGE Start

SJCL has a lofty goal for this year's Elizabeth O'Neill Book Drive: Fill the shelves of a brand new K-6 elementary school under construction in Clovis Unified.



(L-R) YES Office Manager **Melanie Allen**, staff members **Francisco Rosas** and **Rick Rodriguez**, and YES Principal **Kacey Gibson** flash the thumbs up after some heavy book lifting!

Janet Young Elementary School (YES) will welcome 600 to 800 students this fall. YES Principal Kacey Gibson and Office Manager Melanie Allen stopped by the Law School to pick up the first 1,001 books already donated to this year's haul. Principal Gibson says they were shocked to hear that library books cost an average of \$20 each, so the thousand-book pile is a true windfall!

The O'Neill Drive continues through the end of March (books can be donated in the SJCL Library), when the new donations will be dropped off during the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the school. Special thanks to those who have donated already, including Fig Garden Friends of the Library, which has kicked in over 300 books.

This is the 12th year for the O'Neill Drive, and we're hoping to break last year's record of 1,133 books!

Got MCLE? Provides Last Minute Save



With a line-up of session topics that included optional CLE credits in each of the three hard-to-come-by areas (Ethics, Competency, and Bias), Got MCLE? provided a down-to-the-wire save for attorneys required to report by the February deadline. The SJCL Alumni Association put together seven sessions that included topics like "The New Ethics Rules," "What I Learned as a Professional Fiduciary," "Race Dialog," and "Sexual Harassment in the Workplace." Having received especially glowing reviews for this year's program, the Alumni Board wishes to thank each of the speakers who gave up a Saturday morning in January to support their colleagues in the legal community.

Thank you to our 2020 Speakers

- Bruce Bickel, Esq.
- Rene Sample, Esq.
- Hon. David A. Gottlieb
- Daniel Jamison, Esq.
- Stephen Morris, Esq.
- Karen Gill, Esq.
- Charlie Hamamjian, Esq.
- Justice Stephen J. Kane (Ret.)
- American Board of Trial Advocates

What They Said...



“The number of Baby Boomers who have reached and are reaching retirement age is creating an increased interest in estate planning. I’m also impressed with the growing number of individuals I meet each year who are living into their late 90’s and 100’s plus! The special care these folks require is resulting in greater need for attorneys-in-fact, conservators, trustees, and professional fiduciaries.”



Deborah Boyette
Class of 2001
Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, Probate and Conservatorships, and Business and Real Estate Transactions
Wanger Jones Helsley PC

“Currently in criminal defense there is a focus on reducing the size of the incarcerated population. Various ballot initiatives and legislation have focused on rehabilitation rather than mass incarceration. I welcome the change, however, the fact that the change is in response to prison overcrowding, rather than empathy and a genuine desire to help people change, suggests that an improvement in state finances may reverse the trend.”



Daniel Martin
Class of 2005
Assistant Chief Defense Attorney
Fitzgerald, Alvarex & Ciummo, Madera

Trivial Pursuits FROM PAGE 1

course), and then we’d switch sides! I really liked it.” A history major in college, Jenell chose to pursue something other than teaching. She enjoyed law and was good at it. After law school she worked at a competing firm before joining Lozano Smith. “I sat across the table, in opposition to some of people I work with now,” she said. The fact that no grudges were held made her decision to switch firms easy. “You could argue against these people and still be friends afterward, which is not all that common in the legal profession.”

Jenell describes her memories of law school as “vague.” She relates an incident that exemplifies the intensity of focus she and her classmates employed in order to succeed: Five years after law school her study group and their spouses came together for a dinner at Roberta’s house. They decided to play Trivial Pursuit and divided into teams: Lawyers (study group) vs. Non-Lawyers (friends and spouses). The game covered the 90’s decade, which included their years-O-law school, between 1992 - 1996. It became apparent right off that the game would end in a wipe-out.

Each question, regardless of subject area (entertainment, pop culture, sports, etc.), rendered Team-Lawyer helpless due to their total lack of awareness of anything that happened in the world between 1992 and 1996! It was an easy and telling victory for Team-Spouse.

Jenell says she was forever changed by law school. The methods to “find the answer, analyze the answer, and figure out how to apply the answer” are permanently fixed in her brain.

Matt Lear, an associate at Lozano Smith, was deeply affected by law school as well. He joined the firm a year and a half ago, but his experience before that was broad. Matt worked in several areas of law as a self-described door attorney, taking on any case or law that “walked through the door.” At Lozano, Matt concentrates on municipal work, which he loves. “I do a lot of work for the City of Clovis, where I grew up. It’s satisfying to see the tangible impact on the community in municipal law.”

Matt’s entry into law began with speech and debate in high school. At the time he had no interest in law school. Originally

a pre-med major at Cal, Matt did some soul-searching after early struggles with chemistry. His choices were to continue the pre-med struggle or shift to something that was more suited to his skill set. He switched to sociology and used his strong writing skills to apply for law school. “It just took some negative reinforcement to find my true path!” he said. Matt received more negative reinforcement as a 1L when he learned that writing in law school is a uniquely challenging process. A professor who commented on his writing forced him to self-reflect, again. “He told me my writing was verbose. I thought, how dare you! I had always thought of myself as a pretty good writer. But he was right. Now, I do a little creative writing once in a while just to turn off my brain!”

Matt worked full time throughout law school. He came straight from his job at a tire shop: dirt, sweat, et al, but he later got a job clerking for Ty Kharazi (Law ‘96), which he says helped him apply what he was learning in class and grow as an attorney.

“I think there is much to watch for nationally and globally in the area of data privacy and protection. Since the enactment of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), other states and nations have been moved to pass their own comprehensive privacy laws and we should expect this trend to continue.”



Brandon Hamparzoomian
Class of 2017
California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District

“Car buyers are rarely able to battle big car manufacturers when they are sold a “lemon” which is why the California legislature put fee shifting provisions into its consumer protection laws. Currently, auto manufacturers are strategically attacking consumer protections, including scorched earth litigation tactics and filing IRS 1099 forms claiming that statutorily mandated restitution to consumers is a taxable event.”



Alicia Hinton
Class of 2009
Consumer Protection
Law Office of Alicia Hinton



Submit your response (no more than 75 words please) along with a portrait photo to dskouti@sjcl.edu. We'll randomly select a few alumni responses each issue.

“We (SJCL Alumni attorneys) can stand up against anyone in the state,” he said. “USC, Stanford, any of the larger schools. I have friends who went to those. Do they have judges teaching their classes? Not like us. SJCL’s practicing attorneys, like Professor Christine Goodrich (Torts, which almost killed me) are what make the difference!”

A perfect case in point, Professor Goodrich also happens to be Of counsel at Lozano Smith. A graduate of both UCLA and UC Berkeley, Professor Goodrich joined the firm the year it opened in 1988. She specializes in construction and civil litigation for public agencies. For the past 31 years she has taught at SJCL. “I have been extremely fortunate to have spent my work life at two such amazing organizations,” she said.

The newest firm-mate of the group, James McCann, joined Lozano Smith just six months ago. He began his legal career in criminal defense and immigration law. Later he worked in employment and corporate law, but he didn’t feel especially

compelled. It wasn’t until a friend suggested education law that James felt he had found his niche.

James studied criminology and general philosophy in college. One day while sitting in class he had an epiphany. The professor was in the midst of a hypothetical: “If person A switches brains with person B, would each still be the same person they were beforehand?” James says it suddenly hit him: “Where is this (or am I) going?”

His sister suggested pre-law philosophy, which he found most interesting and more importantly, relevant. One of only a handful of graduates to have completed the challenging program, James enrolled in the Co-Operative Degree program between Fresno Pacific University and SJCL, which results in a J.D. in law and a Master’s Degree in Peacemaking and Conflict Studies. Completed concurrently, training in law is combined with the study of conflict itself, and the necessary conditions for peaceful resolution using multi-disciplinary perspectives. Still offered as an option at SJCL, less than a half dozen students have

completed the grueling dual-degree program. James says finding time enough to devote to each program, in addition to his part time job, was a challenge. One thing that helped was his study group. “Everyone in my first study group failed the first year, so I had to find a new one!” he noted wryly. Undaunted, he persevered and completed both degrees.

“My law school memories, in retrospect, are mostly positive. The comradery in the trenches, the great people I met, and the outstanding professors made it. It was the structure of the teaching, learning the new way of thinking that determined if you got it or not.” He relayed a story about a fellow classmate who had a graduate degree in biochemistry from MIT. “He was at the genius level but struggled to alter his way of thinking for law. He didn’t return for year two!”

Our additional graduates at Lozano Smith (Brittany Contreras, Leila Alamri-Kassim, Mary Lerner and Wesley Carlson) were unavailable on the day of our visit.

SJCL ON THE MOVE



New job? Big promotion? Special honor? Send your info to mcartier@sjcl.edu and be part of the "SJCL on the Move!"

Michael J. Brady (Law '12) is now an Associate Attorney at Yruegui & Roberts.

Gabriel L. Brickey (Law '04) has been elected to serve as a Fresno County Superior Court Judge. Brickey is Chief Deputy District Attorney for Fresno County. He will replace Hon. Don Penner, who is retiring.

Claudia Y. Case (Law '18) is now an Associate Attorney at Quall Cardot LLP.

Andrea M. Chapman (Law '17) is now an Associate Attorney with Pascuzzi, Pascuzzi & Stoker.

Lisa A. Cutts (Law '11) is now a named partner at the firm Bolen Fransen Cutts LLP.

Elizabeth A. Egan (Law '95) has been elected to serve as a Fresno County Superior Court Judge. She previously served as Fresno County District Attorney for 12 years and is a member of the SJCL Hall of Fame. She will replace Hon. Alan Simpson (Law '83), who is retiring.

Heidi R. Falany (Law '17) is now a Prelitigation Attorney at Berg Injury Lawyers, Inc.

Ivan Gomez (Law '19) is now an Associate Attorney with Stockwell, Harris, Woolverton & Helphrey.

Matthew L. Green (Law '16) and **Nichola G. Krebsbach** (Law '16) have opened the Green Krebsbach Law Group, specializing in Family Law and Special Education Law.

Brandon A. Hamparzoomian (Law '17) is now a Judicial Attorney for the California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District.

Whitney L. Hendricks (Law '19) is now a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Fresno.

Shanna N. Hesketh (Law '17) is now an Associate Attorney at the Law Office of Robert C. Abrams, where she is launching the personal injury and criminal defense practice groups.

Jodie P. Howard (Law '19) is now the SJCL BREN Legal Director.

DuShawn M. Johnson (Law '15) has opened the Law Office of DuShawn Johnson.

Michael B. Landers (Law '15) is now an Associate Attorney at Emerson Church Law.

Ryan L. Lopez (Law '18) is now an Associate Attorney with the Paul Rodriguez Law Group.

Jeremy K. Lusk (Law '03) has been appointed as an Administrative Law Judge for the State Workers' Compensation Board. He is the 19th ALJ from our alumni ranks, and our 54th bench officer.

Daniel A. Martin (Law '16) is now a Madera County Deputy District Attorney.

Natalie M. Packer (Law '08) has been promoted to Assistant Managing Attorney at Borton Petrini, LLP.

Fabian Perez (Law '19) is now an Associate Attorney with Perez, Williams, Medina & Rodriguez.

Richard J. Placido (Law '17) is now an Associate Attorney at Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman LLP, Fresno.

Randy J. Risner (Law '94) has been appointed as Interim City Attorney for the City of Vallejo.

Jeffrey T. Robinson (Law '16) has opened the Law Offices of Jeff Robinson.

BreAnne R. Ruelas (Law '18) is now a Fresno County Deputy District Attorney.

Wesley E. Stupar (Law '01) is now a Madera County Deputy District Attorney.

Elizabeth A. Thomasian (Law '14) is now a Partner at Emerson Church Law.

Michael C. Titus (Law '15) is now an Associate Attorney with Wild, Carter & Tipton.

George J. Vasquez (Law '13) is now an Associate Attorney at Clovis Law Group LLP.

Shannon N. Wallen (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney at Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman LLP, Fresno.

Jessica D. Weatherly (Law '10) is now a Supervising Deputy District Attorney for the Tulare County District Attorney's Office.

Thank you for your support!

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In Memoriam

San Joaquin College of Law notes with sadness the passing of

Anidelle Tomlinson Hershenow Flint (Law '87) on December 21st. Prior to her retirement, she was a family law practitioner and Adjunct Professor at SJCL. She is survived by her husband, George, her brother, Jack, a nephew, five children, and ten grandchildren.



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April 20, 2020

Student Appreciation Day

June 27, 2020

Senior Citizens' Law Day

September 2020

SJCL Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Winter 2020

Marjaree Mason Children's Christmas Party

January 10, 2021

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