



Inter Alia

SAN JOAQUIN COLLEGE OF LAW • Volume 32, Issue 1

72% First Time Bar Pass Rate

Screams of joy broke out in homes, offices, and one law school across the San Joaquin Valley as the 2020 graduates of SJCL learned that 72% of them had passed the October California Bar Exam on the first attempt.

That pass rate put them well ahead of the average of all state-accredited schools (40.5%). In fact, San Joaquin College of Law graduates represented more than one-fourth of the passing graduates from state-accredited law schools.

California ABA schools passed at a rate of 84% while out-of-state ABA schools passed at 78%, within striking distance for SJCL. The SJCL class of 2020 outperformed two California American Bar As-

sociation accredited institutions, tied with one, and came within a point of another. SJCL also outperformed six out-of-state ABA institutions, including Northwestern, Tulane, and the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

Representative of the San Joaquin Valley's great population diversity, 78% of SJCL's first-time bar passers self-identify as people of color, including 48% identifying as Latinx. The latest figures from the State Bar show that only 7% of current Califor-

nia attorneys are Latinx. Sixty-five percent (65%) of the SJCL passers are women.

Due to COVID restrictions, a heart-felt Virtual Toast was held via Zoom in January to celebrate the graduates' success. Faculty, alumni, and staff joined the honorees as they shared their bar-results-day stories and plans for future employment.

The entire SJCL community extends a hearty CONGRATULATIONS to the passers! Your hard work paid off and we are extraordinarily proud of and happy for you!



Congratulations to **Nathalia Aguirre, Amanda Busick, Tamera Casey, Brian Chin, Daniel Cisneros Jr., Courtney DiPinto, Jacobo Espindola, Jane Faulks, Zachary Groothuyzen, Claudia Juárez, Jennifer Lemus-Fernandez, Esmeralda Kinney, Kelly Liu, Virginia Madrid-Salazar, Syuzanna Martirosyan, Adriana Mendoza-Gurrola, Anthony Muia, Jordan Ott, Lanae Oviedo, Manuel Parra, Jr, Jesus Pereda Jr., Sabrina Prindiville, Angad Singh Puniani, Monica Rast, Denise Ruiz Wall, Zena Sin, Nicole Tucker, Pazong Vang, Yao Vang, Elizabeth Villanueva, and Evan Wright.**

A Message From the Dean

Whither the Bar Exam?

What should determine who is licensed to practice law in California? Many articles have been written on the subject but in the last few years at least three different studies have attempted to identify the knowledge and competencies that a new lawyer should possess and how those should be evaluated. They have in common reduc-

ing the number of substantive subjects tested, emphasizing writing skills, and expanding evaluation of practical skills. All acknowledge that creating effective, fair, and practical methods for evaluation of the knowledge and skills is a challenge. This article is a very brief overview of these studies focusing on their conclusions. The documents are available online.

and competencies a new lawyer should possess in anticipation of creating the “next generation of the bar examination.”

NCBE held listening sessions with more than 400 admissions agencies, law schools and practicing lawyers. It conducted a practice analysis survey with 15,000 lawyers identifying the knowledge and skills new lawyers needed to perform legal work competently. In “Overview of Preliminary Recommendations for the Next Generation of the Bar Exam”, NCBE concluded that “the bar exam should test fewer subjects and should test less broadly and deeply within the subjects covered, that greater emphasis should be placed on assessment of lawyering skills to better reflect real-world practice...”

The content recommended to be assessed was identified as follows:

Foundational Concepts

- Civil Procedure including Constitutional Protections and administrative agencies
- Contract Law including Article 2 of the UCC
- Evidence
- Torts
- Business Associations
- Constitutional Law
- Criminal Law and Constitutional Protections Impacting Criminal Proceedings (excluding other coverage of criminal procedure)

Foundational Skills

- Legal Research
- Legal Writing
- Issue Spotting and Analysis
- Investigation and Evaluation
- Client Counseling and Advising
- Negotiation and Dispute Resolution
- Client Relationship and Management

“The Task Force recommends the creation of an integrated examination that assesses both knowledge and skills holistically, using both stand-alone questions and item sets, as well as a combination

of item formats (e.g., selected response, short answer, and extended constructed response items).”

This means a single set of facts could be probed with multiple-choice and short answer questions, as well as performance test type exercises. Using a single, albeit probably longer, set of facts relieves the test taker from having to become facile (and often confused) with many different names and time frames. NCBE indicates that much work needs to be done to develop testing mechanisms. They suggest testing performance skills by use of video-based scenarios with multiple-choice or written answers. That seems of limited effectiveness, at least, to assess legal research, investigation, and client interaction.

The State Bar of California Study

“The Practice of Law in California: Findings from the California Attorney Practice Analysis and Implications for the California Bar Exam”

In 2018, the State Bar Board of Trustees created the California Attorney Practice Analysis Working Group to make recommendations regarding the subjects and skills to be test on a licensure exam (the bar) to assess minimum competency of a new lawyer (ultimately defined as an individual with less than three years of practice). The Working Group invested a major effort in creating and interpreting a very sophisticated data collection.

The Working Group first established categories of the knowledge and skills to be used in data collection. It then administered two separate surveys. The first, the Traditional Method, asked attorneys to indicate how much time they had spent in different subject areas and tasks over the last 12 months. Given that this relies heavily on memory and estimation, the Working Group also employed a second survey, the Experiential Sampling Method. Under this method, attorneys received a brief survey via email at random times during a workday asking them to record exactly what they were doing at that mo-



Editorial Staff
 Janice Pearson
 Missy Mckai Cartier
 Mark Enns
 Lonzetta Hightower
 Joyce Morodomi
 Diane Skouti

Contributing Writers
 Missy Mckai Cartier
 Megan Lerma
 Diane Skouti

Design & Production
 Mark Enns

Photography
 Missy Mckai Cartier
 Megan Lerma
 Kenny Gilman Photography
 Diane Skouti

Inter Alia Online
sjcl.edu/interalia

San Joaquin College of Law
 Information: 559/323-2100
 Alumni: 559/326-1463
 Website: sjcl.edu

Get Social with SJCL



Inter Alia

Volume 32, Issue 1 • Spring 2021

Contents



Features

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 4 | Pathways to Law | 12 | Alumni Profile |
| 5 | Bar Passers | 13 | Women's Day |
| 6 | Alumni News | 14 | Day in the Life of 1L |
| 7 | New Scholarships | 15 | LawSUIT |
| 8 | BREN Clinic | 17 | Alumni Association |
| 9 | Senior Center | 18 | SJCL on the Move |
| 10 | Hope, Excitement, & Growth | 19 | Giving Back |

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.*

Board of Trustees

Douglas Noll, J.D., *Chair*; Ross Borba, Jr., *Vice Chair*; Melissa White, J.D., *Secretary/Treasurer*; Hon. James Petrucelli (retired), *Alumni Representative*; Ligia Bernardo, J.D.; Richard Caglia, J.D.; Hon. Jane Cardoza; Deborah Coe, J.D.; Kevin Hansen, J.D.; David Hogue, J.D.; Jan Kahn, J.D.; Anthony Mendes, J.D.; Jesse Molina, J.D.; Vong Mouanoutoua, J.D.; Hon. Robert Oliver (Retired); Eddie Ruiz, J.D.; Lisa Smittcamp, J.D.; Steven Spencer, J.D.; Dennis Veeh, CPA; David Weiland, J.D.; Bob Whalen, J.D.; and Nick Zinkin, J.D.

Full-Time Faculty

Justin Atkinson, J.D.; Linda Barreto, J.D.; Andreas Borgeas, J.D.; Christine Goodrich, J.D.; Denise Kerner, J.D.; Mark Masters, J.D.; Janice Pearson, J.D.; Jeffrey Purvis, J.D., and Logan Tennerelli, J.D.

Administration

Janice Pearson, *Dean*; Justin Atkinson, *Academic Dean*; Logan Tennerelli, *Dean of Students*; Mark Masters, *Law Library Director*; Linda Barreto, *NALC Director*; Susie Aguilar, *Staff Accountant*; Missy Mckai Cartier, *Public Information Officer*; Victoria Denny, *Administrative Assistant to the Deans*; Matthew Dillard, *Maintenance Assistant*; Mark Enns, *Senior Designer & Web Developer*; Kenia Garcia, *NALC Senior Client Service Coordinator*; Kerry Hanson, *Head of Public Services (Library)*; Debi Hernandez, *Administrative Assistant/Receptionist*; Lonzetta Hightower, *Student Services Assistant*; Jodie Howard, *Program Director, BREN Clinic*; Jaspreet Klar Jauregui, *NALC Staff Attorney*; Sabina Johal, *Assistant to CFO*; Joyce Morodomi, *Director of Student Services*; Aracely Mota, *NALC Client Services Coordinator*; Jared Nelson, *Senior Network Systems Engineer*; Lisa Nilmeier, *Director of Financial Aid*; Miriam Ochoa, *NALC Administrative Assistant/Receptionist*; Beth Pitcock, *Director of Human Resources & Compliance*; Cyndee Robinson, *Technical Services Librarian*; Rick Rodriguez, *Facilities Manager*; Francisco "Javier" Rosas, *Assistant Director, Admissions & Student Engagement*; Diane Skouti, *Alumni Coordinator*; Patricia Smith, *Law Coordinator*; Diane Steel, *Director of Admissions*; Jill Waller-Randles, *Chief Financial Officer*; and Derron Wilkinson, *Chief Information Officer*

Adjunct Faculty

Robert C. Abrams, J.D.; Miiko Anderson, J.D.; Thomas H. Armstrong, J.D.; Lawrence M. Artenian, J.D.; Arthur G. Baggett, Jr., J.D.; Marsha Baum, J.D.; Hon. Thomas L. Bender, J.D.; Barry J. Bennett, J.D.; Alyson A. Berg, J.D.; Hon. Stanley A. Boone; David M. Camenson, J.D.; Amanda D. Cary, J.D.; Daniel E. Casas, J.D.; Phillip H. Cherney, J.D.; David P. Chiappetta, J.D.; Lisa B. Coffman, J.D.; Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin; Hon. Mark E. Cullers; Matthew Farmer, J.D.; Jessica E. Hafer Fierro, J.D.; Robert A. Fuentes, J.D.; Hon. Erica Grosjean; David J. Guy, J.D.; Jason P. Hamm, J.D.; Ray Horng, J.D.; Kathi Kesselman, J.D.; Stefanie J. Krause, J.D.; Andrew S. Kucera, J.D.; Cary Levitt, J.D.; Michael R. Linden, J.D.; John Malmo, J.D.; Devon McTeer, J.D.; Mark D. Miller, J.D.; Jesse Molina, J.D.; Sally O. Moreno, J.D.; James Mugridge, J.D.; John M. O'Connor, J.D.; Jennifer Oleksa, J.D.; Paul M. Parvanian, J.D.; Dan Rogers, J.D.; Katherine Englander Schuh, J.D.; Hon. Michael Sheltzer; Michael E. Smith, J.D.; Vincente Tennerelli, J.D.; Amelia Thompson, J.D.; Douglas O. Treisman, J.D.; Alicia Diaz Wrest, J.D.

The Power of a Pathway

The Central Valley Regional Pathway to Law was doubly honored at the sixth annual Pathways to Law Summit on February 19, 2021. The Regional Pathway is an innovative collaboration between Bullard High School, Fresno City College, Fresno State, and San Joaquin College of Law to assist diverse students in contemplating and preparing for law school.

Fresno City College received the Community College Diversity Champion Award from the State Bar to recognize its outstanding efforts to promote diversity in the legal profession. SJCL Dean of Students Logan Tennerelli accepted the award on behalf of Fresno City College (FCC). Dean Tennerelli taught at FCC before joining the faculty of SJCL and had been a force in the FCC efforts to promote diversity. In her presentation, Dean Tennerelli explained many students who want to pursue law “don’t even know where to begin” because they do not have family or social connections in the profession. She indicated FCC programs seek to give students that support and clear directions for success.

The Regional Pathway received the State Bar Education Pipeline Award. The award was established in 2008 by the State Bar’s Board of Governors and the Bar’s Council on Access & Fairness to recognize outstanding efforts of law-related educational programs that train and support students to become interested in the judicial system and careers in the law.



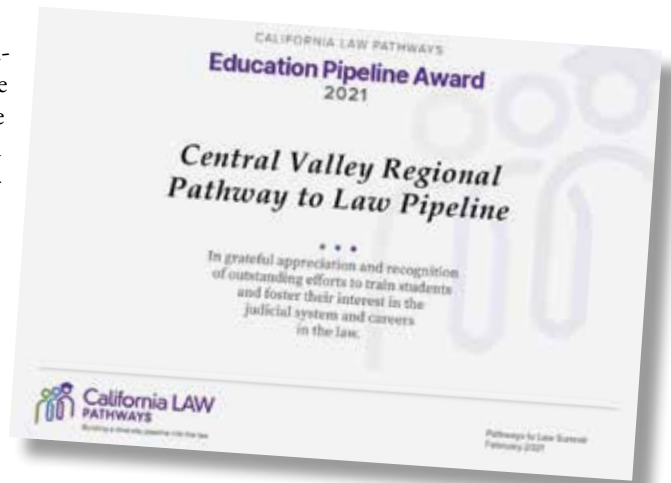
Dean **Jan Pearson** accepted the Education Pipeline Award on behalf of San Joaquin College of Law.

Leadership from each institution of the Pathway spoke briefly while accepting the award. Dean Janice Pearson accepted on behalf of the final step of the pathway, San Joaquin College of Law. Dean Pearson acknowledged the institutions creating the pathway saying “They also build a much larger pathway – giving Valley students the chance to attain higher education in any career they choose and keeping much-needed talent in the Valley.”

She then pointed to what the effort accomplishes. “Here is a glimpse of what the Pathway’s does. The SJCL graduating class of 2020 was the most diverse class in SJCL’s history. Most took the October 2020 California bar exam – the most difficult bar exam in the country. Nonetheless, 72% passed on their first attempt, and 78% of those passers were people of color. You are already pushing towards the goal.”

How solid is that Pathway? More than 600 students are currently in the pipeline. Bullard High Principal Dr. Johnny Alvarado says more than half of the students in its pipeline have been there through all four years of high school. As for diversity, Fresno State Interim President Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval says over 65% of its students in its Pathways Program identify as First Generation. Meanwhile, at Fresno City College, President Dr. Carole Goldsmith says “Fresno’s got a lot of work to do,” but she counts over a hundred currently in the Pathways program. She adds the path can be difficult, but “our students rise to the occasion.”

The award was established in 2008 by the California Bar’s Board of Governors and the Bar’s Council on Access & Fairness to recognize outstanding efforts of law-related educational programs that train



and support students to become interested in the judicial system and careers in the law. Past winners include the Center for Youth Development through Law program at Berkeley, the UCLA Law Fellows program, the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Educational Partnerships, and California JusticeCorps, among others.

This regional pathway is an innovative collaboration between Bullard High School, Fresno City College, Fresno State and San Joaquin College of Law.



Dean of Students **Logan Tennerelli** accepted the Community College Diversity Champion Award on behalf of Fresno City College

Bar Passers: Diversity and Diverse Jobs

Perhaps even more note-worthy than the 72% first time bar pass rate for San Joaquin College of Law October test takers is the diversity of the group.

BY MISSY MCKAI CARTIER, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

A full 78% of the 21 first-time passers identify as minorities. At least two are Hmong, including Pazong Vang, who was the winner of the Hmong Language Scholarship as she entered SJCL. The 2015 Fresno State graduate says her parents spent time in a Thai refugee camp before heading to France and later to the U.S. to join her paternal family in Fresno, where Pazong was born. “They valued education as a tool in obtaining the American Dream,” she says, adding “I value my community and my heritage, and thus, making a difference in the world.”

She hopes to do so in her new job as a Fresno County Public Defender. Despite the Valley being home to the second-largest Hmong settlement in the country, there is a dearth of Hmong attorneys locally.

Meanwhile, two of the SJCL Bar Passers, Brian Chin and Nicole Tucker, have been clerking for the DeMaria Law Firm for two years, and the delays meant they weren’t at work. They are now. Both had “you pass, you’re hired” offers.

A lot of alumni were celebrating similar offers. Nathalia Aguirre becomes an Associate Attorney for the Crockford Law Firm, Daniel Cisneros has a home at Erickson Arbuthnot, Esmeralda Kinney has been picked up by Central California Legal Services, Jesus Pereda Jr. is now with Mark Broughton, P.C., Claudia Juarez becomes a Staff Attorney for Merced Superior Court, Monica Rast moves up to Associate Attorney for Herr Pedersen and Berglund, Zena Sin becomes an Associate at Pascuzzi Pascuzzi & Stoker, Elizabeth Vallanueva moves from her clerking position to become a Tulare County Deputy D.A., Zachary Groothuyzen moves to an Associate position at Bradford & Barthel, and Evan Wright has been picked up by Harris Law.



Pazong Vang (Law '20) says “Receiving my swearing-in ceremony at the Hmong Memorial in front of the Fresno Superior Court was a very special moment for my family, and for me. This was a testament to my family’s journey - and to all refugees and immigrants.”

Lanae Oviedo had been clerking for her mom, 2006 SJCL Alumna Serita Rios, and continued briefly as an Associate Attorney at the Serita Rios Law Firm, but has now moved to her dream job as a Housing Staff Attorney at Central California Legal Services.

Jacobo Espindola acknowledged the support of both his family – and his

colleagues who feel like family. Two days before the toast, the majority of the Caine Law Firm accompanied him as he was sworn in by Fresno County Superior Court Judge Ana de Alba. Jacobo’s family was there as well, and he choked up as he mentioned the judge welcomed him to the state bar in both English and Spanish.

SJCL Adds Three New Superior Court Judges

It was a busy three weeks with triple enrobing ceremonies on tap.



Gabriel Brickey (Law '04)



Elizabeth Egan (Law '95)



Ricky Tripp (Law '01)

On December 8th, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the appointment of Ricky Tripp to the Tulare County Superior Court Bench. Tripp had been selected as a Tulare County Commissioner just a year earlier. Prior to that, he spent 13 years with the Tulare County District Attorney's Office, and spent four years as an Associate Attorney at several firms before his experience in the D.A.'s Office. Tripp is a graduate of College of the Sequoias, Fresno State, and 2001 graduate of San Joaquin College of Law.

Gabriel Brickey, a 2004 graduate of SJCL, assumes his seat on the Fresno County Superior Court in January after he ran unopposed for the seat which was vacated by the retirement of Judge Don Penner, a 1974 SJCL Alumnus. Brickey joined the Fresno County District Attorney's Office 15 years ago and has served assignments ranging from juvenile hall and felony trials to identity theft, sexual assault-child abuse, gang unit and homicide.

Elizabeth Egan also heads to the Fresno County Superior Court Bench in January after winning a March election against Douglas Treisman. Egan, a 1995 SJCL graduate, served nearly 20 years in the Fresno County District Attorney's Office, including serving as the first female Fresno County District Attorney for 12 years. She

was competing for the seat created by the retirement of Judge Alan Simpson, a 1983 SJCL Alumnus.

All three new judges will serve six-year terms and receive an annual salary of

\$214,601. Their additions to the court will bring the number of SJCL Alumni Bench Officers to a total of 56, including 24 Superior Court Judges.

SJCL Adds Two New Administrative Law Judges

San Joaquin College of Law is pleased to add two more Administrative Law Judges to its alumni ranks, bring the total number of SJCL Bench Officers to 58.

Hon. Monica Coats and Hon. Stephanie Snyder are now both Administrative Law Judges with the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board.

What led them to make this move? Judge Coats, a 1987 SJCL grad, says "I thought it was about time that I start administering justice and do my part to clean up the system (if that's possible)."

Meanwhile, newly minted ALJ Hon. Snyder, a 2008 grad, says she decided to apply "after being worn out from working

as a labor and employment attorney for the City of Fresno. I primarily handled employee discipline and appeal hearings. I also reviewed police-officer-involved-shooting internal affairs files for production under SB 1421. Seeing so many dead bodies and blood was almost unbearable but I was the primary attorney assigned the review. So, when I saw a position for an Administrative Law Judge, I knew it would keep me in the law, but not the adversarial or disciplinary role I was in. I was ready for a change and this came at the perfect time!"

With their elevation to the bench, SJCL now has 21 Alumni ALJs.

Scholarship to Honor Beloved Colleague

Perhaps her obituary says it best. Trudi is remembered as “faithful, loyal, beloved, compassionate, adventurous, fierce, courageous, tenacious, generous, kind, funny, and cherished.”



Trudi Manfredo (Law '93)

To honor the memory and long-standing career of Trudi Manfredo, family and friends, along with the Central California Bankruptcy Association (CCBA), have established an annual scholarship of \$1,000 for a student enrolled at San Joaquin College of Law. Trudi was a specialist in the intersection of bankruptcy law and family law matters well-respected in the Fresno area for her abilities. The scholarship will be offered to a female student in the 2nd to 5th year of study with demonstrated financial need.

CCBA says Trudi served the legal needs of Fresno-area communities for over 25 years, and always as a consummate professional. It

adds “Each CCBA Board member mourns her loss as a friend, mentor, and advocate.”

Trudi passed away at the age of 73 on January 17th after a long-fought battle with cancer. She obtained her law degree in 1993 from San Joaquin College of Law, where Dean Jan Pearson is spearheading the scholarship fund in Trudi’s name. To contribute, contact the Law School at (559) 323-2100 or mail your check clearly marked for the “Trudi Manfredo Scholarship” to SJCL, 901 5th Street, Clovis, CA 93612. You may also donate using a credit card on CCBA’s website (non-member donations incur a 4% credit card convenience fee). All funds will pass through to SJCL.

Attorney Ibarra Memorializes Paralegal

There is sometimes a special relationship between attorneys and their paralegals. Many lawyers see them as their friend, protégée, and even family.

Kristina Zarate was a little bit of all of that for the Goldberg & Ibarra Law Firm. She went there on a temporary job assignment about eight years ago as the office was going paperless. Attorney David Ibarra (Law '10) was so impressed by her passion and work ethic that he invited her to stay.

And so Ibarra was a little concerned when Kristina felt ill and left work early one day. He was even more concerned when he received a text the following morning saying she was too sick to come to work. She died about four hours later. The Law Firm was shocked by her death; she was only 41-years-old. Ibarra later learned her cause of death: COVID-19.

He is relieved no one else in the office has tested positive since then, but the feeling of loss is still heavy. While Ibarra is a J.D. graduate, his wife, Jennell Casillas, is a graduate of SJCL’s former paralegal program who actually convinced Ibarra

to go to law school. She understands the importance of paralegals. Together, they have created the Kristina Zarate Memorial Scholarship.

The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a 2nd-5th year law student who plans to practice law in the San Joaquin Valley area and demonstrates a desire to help underserved populations in the Valley. Ibarra says it is “to help out any individual who embodies the possibility for helping injured individuals in the Valley. It’s for paralegals who want to better themselves and the community through the work that they do.”

This is the third annual SJCL scholarship sponsored by Ibarra and his wife (who is now a Marriage and Family Therapist). They already sponsor two scholarships of \$1,000 each for members of LawSUIT (Law Students United in Tolerance). Those scholarships are awarded to a 2nd-5th year student with a record of academic achievement who is committed to civic



Paralegal **Kristina Zarate’s** life was cut short by COVID-19.

involvement that promotes diversity and will continue that commitment upon entering the legal profession. Demonstration of financial need or hardship is also considered.

BREN Clinic Supports “Invisible Students”

The BREN (Bolster, Reform, Empower, Network) Clinic had a momentous inaugural year. We connected with more than 700 students, their families, and other stakeholders in communities across the San Joaquin Valley.



BY JODIE HOWARD (LAW '19), BREN SPECIAL EDUCATION LEGAL CLINIC DIRECTOR

Overlooked by their schools, many students are denied equitable access to a public education due to their disabilities. Their needs are disregarded and ignored in the classroom. Their pleas for help are often not heard nor seen by their schools. As a result, these invisible students don't reach their full potential. Through BREN's efforts, some of these students in our community received equitable access to a public education and a pathway to attaining greater self-sufficiency later in life.

BREN's first year was not without a few bumps in the road. We had all of our outreach programs up and running by the new year – community advocacy courses, consultations, and legal representation. However, in March we were forced to quickly move to an online delivery system

due to COVID-19 restrictions. With the help of the amazing team at SJCL, we transitioned quickly and were able to complete our courses online, hold consultations via online platforms, and provide legal services remotely. In the summer we expanded our services to the law students at SJCL. Courses in Special Education Law are now offered to these future attorneys as well as the opportunity to work as a law clerk in the BREN Clinic.

The BREN Clinic recently released our first Annual Report. It provides a snapshot of some of the work we have accomplished—and some of the personal stories that drive us. They are proof of how much we can achieve when we work together to reach our common goal: Helping Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Reach Their Full Potential.



Read the complete report at sjcl.edu/bren

Ground-breaking for the new Senior Center

The ground-breaking for the new Clovis Senior Center makes SJCL's new Darryl B. Freedman Law Library a soon-to-be reality.



Ground was broken in mid-February for the new Clovis Senior Activity Center to be built along with a new public library and transit center in the planned Landmark Square. This is of great interest to SJCL because once complete, the Law School will remodel the current Senior Center building (Below) to become our new Darryl B. Freedman Law Library. The \$19M Landmark Square will occupy a six-acre lot just East of Clovis Avenue at Veterans Avenue and 3rd Street. Planned to be completed in phases, the Senior Activity Center is scheduled to be complete by the summer of 2022.



Hope, Excitement, and Growth for SJCL

This month marks one year since SJCL, along with schools throughout the country, transitioned to virtual education for what we believed and hoped would be a short period of time.

BY LOGAN TENNERELLI, DEAN OF STUDENTS

While none of us could have predicted the magnitude of the COVID-19 pandemic - or the toll it would take on our community both physically and mentally - this spring season offers a period of renewed hope, excitement, and growth for the school.

SJCL is proud of the resources we offer students to support both their legal education and personal well-being, especially during this difficult time. Our students and alumni are the heart of our institution, and we continually strive to recognize and exceed their expectations. This means addressing student needs not only to learn and prepare for the bar exam, but also to form connections with faculty, alumni, and each other and to feel engaged and valued.

In addition to offering anonymous, free counseling with a licensed therapist to all students and their immediate family members living in the household, SJCL employed several upper-division law students through federal work study as Teaching Assistants this year. These T.A.s hosted study sessions, met individually with students, helped research issues, and worked to make the 1Ls feel “at home” at school, even as they attended class from home. And professors – myself included – greatly appreciated the extra help the T.A.s continue to provide!

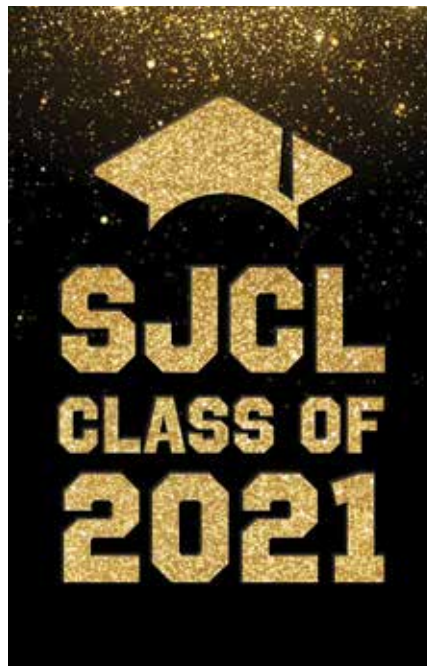
I wanted to highlight some of the plans we are making to celebrate our students and ensure their success.



Barrister's Brunch: On March 27, 2021, SJCL, along with the Student Bar Association (SBA), will host a virtual Barrister's Brunch. The SBA is providing gifts to all students and scholarship sponsors. We were thrilled to offer nearly fifty scholarships to SJCL students during this scholarship cycle. The winners will be announced at the brunch. We wish to thank all who generously sponsored these scholarships.



Tips from Bar-Passers Panel: On April 1, 2021, SJCL along with the Alumni Association will host a virtual “Tips from Bar-Passers” panel featuring 2020 grads Kelly Liu and Suzy Martirosyan and 2019 Grad and Valedictorian Jodie Howard. This event offers current students the chance to hear the panelists’ insights on studying for and taking the bar, managing time, and coping with stress and anxiety, followed by Q&A.



Graduation: We are currently making plans for a hybrid graduation ceremony. Students and a limited number of their loved ones will have the opportunity to attend an individualized hooding ceremony outdoors in early May. SJCL will also host a virtual graduation featuring video footage and photos from the hooding event on May 29 at 3:00PM.

Re-opening: We continue to make plans for re-opening the school, at least for certain courses, this summer and fall. The Fresno County Public Health Department committed at least 40,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine for educators and school employees this month, enabling many of our staff and faculty to be vaccinated in hopes of returning to campus.

Of course, we are not alone in our efforts to maintain a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment in what is hopefully the pandemic's "home stretch." Students themselves have organized events, including a Q&A meeting focused on mentorships with alum and defense attorney Brittany Hines, an equity book club open to alum and students (they just finished reading *The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein and are now reading *Chokehold* by Paul Butler), and countless informal study sessions and virtual meet-ups. As Dean of Students and a Civil Procedure professor, our student body as a whole, and my bi-weekly class sessions, energize and inspire me when I am fighting Zoom and pandemic fatigue. I speak for all of us when I say working with the SJCL community is truly an honor.

As I write this, I am reminded of the words of Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard that "life must be understood backwards but... lived forwards." We cannot rewind back to our old lives; we must move forward even as we reckon with the devastation of the past year. We keep going, striving to do our jobs well and to improve, knowing that with each passing day, we will appreciate even more the moment when we can finally be together again.

There is no shortcut to the end of the pandemic – or on any of our journeys as current and future lawyers. There is just a long, winding road, full of doubts, but also victories. Gratification comes in both moments big and small – when we see our students grasp a difficult concept, have a meaningful discussion about a book or case, earn a well-deserved scholarship, or graduate with a J.D. These are the moments that keep us going and remind us of our purpose.

Alumni Association to offer more MCLE



Got MCLE? went virtual in January this year. Hosted by SJCL Alumni Board President Stefanie Krause, the event covered all of the State Bar required MCLE topics: Ethics (2 hours), Elimination of Bias, and Competency. The speakers discussed a diversity of topics including: "Fundamentals of Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounting by Dr. Nancy Mora, DBA, Stress in the Legal Profession in the 21st Century by Niki Cunningham & Steve McQuillan, and two sessions by Hon. David Gottlieb on COVID's Impact on the New Ethics Rules (Be Zealous But Don't Be a Jerk), and Mental Health Disorders and the Court.

Thank you to all of our speakers for this wonderfully valuable program. The alumni board hopes to extend this event to several dates this year, so keep your eyes open for Got MCLE this Spring and Fall. In the interest of presenting timely and up-to-date sessions, send any topic or speakers suggestions to dskouti@sjcl.edu.

Also, make sure to mark your calendars for next year's event on January 8, 2022!

Oh, the Possibilities...

Denise Ruiz-Wall transitions to a second career in law after 21 years as an elementary school teacher.

BY DIANE SKOUTI, ALUMNI LIAISON

“Let’s talk about intent; do you think it was in Bobby’s mind to hurt you when he stepped on your shoe?” Recent barpasser Denise Ruiz-Wall (Law ’16) has yet to begin her career as a practicing attorney, but she employs the common law test of *mens rea* on her current clientele at every opportunity. Denise says during law school, her understanding

home, studied for the bar exam, and in the process, realized she had Attention Deficit Disorder.

Denise’s story, however, is not one about superpowers. Far from it. It is an example of what can be achieved with resilience, perseverance, self-discovery, and the will to reach higher even when doubt looms overhead. As early as the age of 7, Denise was drawn to the field of law. It was a friend of her parents, an attorney named Mr. Robbins, who kindly encouraged her interest by taking her to visit court and showing her firsthand what lawyers do. Yet, while she remembers being convinced she wanted to study law, she attended Fresno State years later with a major in Business Administration and Marketing, because she believed law was probably just too tough.

As happens with most second-choices, Denise felt disappointed with her business degree after graduating. While searching for a better fit, she joined some friends who were working as substitute teachers. That’s when she realized she liked teaching and was good at it. She was hired as a permanent teacher at her very first interview. Eventually returning to school to attain a master’s degree in Education, Denise became eligible to be a school administrator, principal, or even superintendent, but she most enjoyed the “fieldwork” of being in the classroom. It was only then, after all her achievement

that Denise realized maybe, no - probably, she could tackle law school after all, and succeed.

Initially accepted to the law school at the University of San Francisco, Denise decided she would do better to keep her day job and stay local. It was Professor Atkinson, she says, who made her feel like SJCL was the perfect fit. “It was a small school, Professor Atkinson was so nice, and it just felt like the natural choice. Plus, the

classes fit well with my work schedule and time constraints,” she said.

Once her law school journey was well underway, Denise would endure a divorce, single parenthood, and come to the conclusion that she had ADD. The latter, she says, was actually a relief because it helped her to understand so much more about herself. She says her lifelong love of school and learning is what ultimately helped her make it through it all. She read her law books during lunch recess, evenings and weekends, and had plenty of help from her supportive family. Reflecting on that time now, “It’s really all a blur!” she says. With her role as a mom first and foremost (her children are now 14 and 18), Denise made sure she was present at her son’s basketball games and her daughter’s cheerleading and drama performances. She discovered that she could switch gears, singing about the Wheels on the Bus by day, and dissecting legal methods by night, with ease.

“Now that I think about it, my ADD made it easier for me to switch between the two worlds,” Denise says. With ADD your mind is always racing, always moving between all the various parts of your life, like a whirlwind. “Their world (the first-graders) is so disconnected from my own, they can be so funny, and sassy(!) and their personalities are so interesting, it made a nice contrast to what I was doing in law school.”

With the confidence that she could take on anything life might throw her way, Denise graduated from law school in 2016. With so many years of teaching under her belt, she is only a year away from eligibility for full retirement, after which she will begin career #2 and finally fulfill her dream as an attorney-at-law.

Denise says she wants to start out at a law firm to gain as much experience as possible. She thinks she then might focus on Education Law. With the COVID pandemic revealing so many issues within the field of education, Denise says she would like to become an advocate for teachers. She says she is glad she decided on SJCL for law school. “SJCL is very dear to me, it was the perfect fit,” she said. “Look at me! I have spent years singing with first-graders about the seasons: “Winter, spring, summer and fall... these are the seasons of the yearrrr... and soon I’ll begin my career as an attorney. You’ve got to have faith in human possibility!”



Denise Ruiz-Wall (Law '16)

of criminal liability was greatly enhanced when she applied the concept of culpability to her first-grade students and their emotionally charged conflicts. “Let’s talk about negligence. You have a duty to watch where you are walking!”

Now in her 21st year as an elementary school teacher in Selma, Denise not only completed law school while teaching first grade full-time, but she also became a newly single parent with two children at

SAN JOAQUIN COLLEGE OF LAW recognizes
Women's History Month

SJCL women share their favorite quotes by inspiring women!

"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

– Ruth Bader Ginsburg



LINDA BARRETO

"For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it."

– Amanda Gorman



KENIA GARCIA

"I am not afraid of storms for I am learning how to sail my ship."

– Louisa M. Alcott



CHRISTINE GOODRICH

"Nu shu means women's writing. And it was a secret writing system that was invented by women, used by women and kept a secret by women in one very remote county in China for a thousand years."

– Lisa See



KERRY HANSON

"No matter how you feel, Get up, Dress up, and Show up"

– Regina Brett



DEBI HERNANDEZ

"So often in life, things that you regard as an impediment turn out to be great, good fortune."

– Ruth Bader Ginsburg



JODIE HOWARD

"If people are doubting how far you can go, go so far that you can't hear them anymore."

– Michele Ruiz
President & CEO
Ruiz Strategies



JOYCE MORODOMI

"Do one thing everyday that scares you."

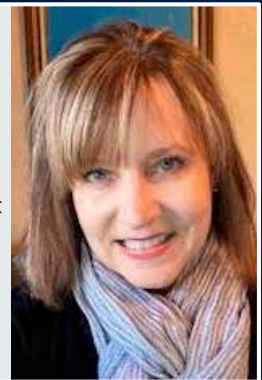
– Eleanor Roosevelt



LISA NILMEIER

"Remember always that you not only have the right to be an individual, you have an obligation to be one."

– Eleanor Roosevelt



BETH PITCOCK

"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved."

– Helen Keller



DIANE SKOUTI

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

– Margaret Mead



DIANE STEEL

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

– Maya Angelou



LOGAN TENNERELLI

Day in the Life of a 1L: “Please Don’t Call on Me”

BY LISA TALLEY, FIRST YEAR STUDENT

The sun isn’t up yet, but I’m cracking open my laptop and drilling into the Civil Procedure textbook in a grave attempt to wrap my mind around the elusive Erie Doctrine. Three cups of coffee later, the clock inches forward to the hour I need to clock in for work. Yet, I still have eighty some-odd pages left of reading assignments, a research paper, a practice essay, and outlines to update. All of which loom over the ever-growing to-do list of life. And in the lucid moments of these chilly, lonely mornings, I wonder, “Have I lost my mind?”

The first few hours of work are a blur, a couple of emails here and a meeting there, and suddenly it’s time for class. I minimize a few tabs, grab my books, open my notes and log on to Zoom to join my classmates for another round of “please don’t cold-call me.”

Half the class experience is inwardly hoping I’m not called upon to brief a complicated case, and the other half is spent furiously trying to keep up with the professors. My classmates jump into the discussion, seemingly effortless in understanding the material. Anxious that I’ve missed something important, I ask a question that feels painfully obvious to everyone else. A few seconds following the professor’s explanation, a small red indicator pops up in my Zoom window. A classmate has sent me a private message thanking me for asking my question; they had been wondering the exact same thing.

The incoming class of 2020 has yet to set foot in an SJCL classroom. While we have been unable to personally feel the sense of community the school celebrates in its reputation, it is still very present in our virtual environment. The 1L life is riddled with anxiety, insecurity, self-doubt, sleepless nights, and tremendous amounts of stress. And now, we can add a pandemic to that list. Still, no one seemed willing to leave anyone behind. The chat window is filled with encouraging and supportive messages. We dissect complex principles via email. We hold independent Zoom meetings for study sessions and continuously



send each other material we think would be helpful. We’re distanced, but we’re in this together.

In the years and months leading up to my first year, I repeatedly heard that law school is ferociously competitive, that most professors are enigmas in and of themselves. I chose SJCL for its tight-knit familial closeness, its departure from those stereotypes. When the pandemic hit and the school went virtual, I worried that I

might lose the chance to truly experience it. But the culture of SJCL pushed out beyond the borders of its campus, pierced through our computer screens, and permeated our individual bubbles. It seems, through the student body and faculty, SJCL’s culture of its community is alive and well.

So, in those dark, quiet mornings when I ask myself if I have absolutely lost my mind, I say, “maybe, but I like where I’m going and how I’m getting there.”

The Necessity of LawSUIT

The following includes nods to Professors Abrams and Malmo (format), Professors Goodrich and Kerner (conclusory statement), and Professors Purvis and Atkinson (here/because).

BY LAURA HIGAREDA-CHAPA LAW SUIIT PRESIDENT

As a new 1L, I was eager to learn about the law but completely lost in law school. Then I found Law Students United in Tolerance (LawSUIT) and met former LawSUIT president Shannon Wentworth and vice-president Vaughan Rios. These two women took the time to welcome us, encourage us and give us a glimpse of the legal panorama that awaits us in the future. They gave us their support all year, on top of their other commitments.

At the end of my first year, I was elected LawSUIT president and I found myself standing at the bank with Shannon, handing over the club files and bank account. Shannon took the time to answer all my questions about the club and share a little about its history.

Excited as I was, I asked: how did we begin, what are we about, what should we be doing, how do we differ from the other clubs on campus... and are we necessary? Short answer, YES.

Fact Synopsis: LawSUIT was founded in 2007 by a handful of committed students, including David Ibarra, dedicated to helping each other survive law school by creating fellowship among students, partnering with faculty, and building a diverse community united in tolerance. Throughout its history, LawSUIT's membership has fluctuated between highs and lows. However, the one thing that has remained steady is our handful of committed students. All who truly believe that if you help one, you help many.

Issue: Is LawSUIT necessary?

Rule: To succeed in law school you must have community, partnership and fellowship.

Rule: If you help one, you help many.

Analysis: LawSUIT provides academic workshops, a mentoring program, a monthly speaker series, a monthly newsletter on diversity awareness, and a book club on issues of equality. However, what must be highlighted is how LawSUIT



Shannon Wentworth (Law '19) and Laura Higareda-Chapa (3L)

helps students by creating an atmosphere of community, partnership, and fellowship. LawSUIT is committed to uniting students in tolerance; thus, LawSUIT is necessary.

Conclusory statement? I know, I know... but please read on.

Academic Workshops

Here, LawSUIT creates partnerships between faculty and students because our academic workshops are professor-led. This means we get to know our professors and they in turn get to know us on a more personal level. They take time out of their individual schedules to be with us on weekends. This commitment to show up for us, even when it is only a few students, is a commitment to the belief that if you help one, you help many.

Each student arrives on campus with a social network of family, friends, and a community that is rooting for them, and in many cases, counting on them to succeed. This is especially true of many of our members who are first in their families to attend college or first to pursue an advanced degree.

Mentorship Program

Here, LawSUIT encourages fellowship because our mentorship program offers so much more than outlines and study tips. First, we ask both mentor and mentee to sign confidentiality agreements because

our work as advocates begins here and now. We start our relationships on a basis of trust. We provide moral support which often includes sympathy on an increased workload, consolation over a poor exam grade, or empathy regarding a lost loved one during this law school journey. We offer fellowship and friendship.

Speaker Series

Here, LawSUIT is building community because we are making connections between alumni and students. The informal and intimate nature of the meetings provide students and guests a safe place to share the realities of law school and life; and to learn about the truths that await us when we make that transition from student to practitioner. These connections have fortuitously led to opportunities for our members. Just this year alone, a few of our guest speakers have taken on several of our members as interns and professional mentorships are beginning to form. David Ibarra, Ann Stokes, Hon. Amy Guerra, Shannon Wentworth, and Brittany Hines are just a few speakers we can call by first name, all alumni, all legal professionals.

Book Club

Here, LawSUIT is adhering to its mission of unity and tolerance because our book discussions entail engaging cross-cultural exchanges between students, alumni, SJCL faculty and staff. It is here where education and transformation are happening. As we share our sometimes-uncomfortable life experiences, we help each other move beyond tolerance to understanding and respect. The lessons learned by these shared life experiences are important in the education of future lawyers who stand on the frontlines of ensuring the promise of justice and equality.

Newsletter - Diversity Awareness

Here, LawSUIT continues to promote tolerance because the newsletter expands our knowledge of the communities around us. We ask that our contributors educate us on a community's historic legal battles and its current legal issues; and provide us with a list of legal organizations advocating for this community.

Therefore, for all the reasons stated above, I conclude that LawSUIT is necessary. We invite you to join us in building a community that is diverse and partner with us in taking the step beyond tolerance to understanding and respect. Respectfully, Laura on behalf of the LawSUIT Board.

Whither the Bar Exam? FROM PAGE 1

ment, indicating the type of task, subject matter, and the criticality and depth of the work. From this survey, they received more than 74,000 responses with a larger survey return (18%) than for the Traditional Survey (8%), probably because of the greater ease of participation.

Subject Areas

Analysis of data from a composite of both surveys gave the Working Group 19 subject areas cited as frequently used in practice. Of course, many of these were subjects currently tested on the bar exam. Like in the NCBE survey, Civil Procedure was ranked as most important. Following in order of importance were: Professional Responsibility; Torts; Contracts; Evidence; Employment; Criminal Law and Procedure; Family Law; Administrative Law and Procedure; Constitutional Law; Estate Planning, Trusts, and Probate; Real Property; Environment and Land Use; Legislation; Business Associations; Tax; Finance and Bankruptcy; Securities; and Secured Transactions.

The Working Group acknowledged it was not practical to assess all these subjects on a bar exam, especially with an objective of reducing the number of subjects tested to de-emphasize rote memorization. They felt a core of subjects frequently cited in the surveys and foundational to many law practices would be sufficient to assess minimum competency of new lawyers. Hence, they recommended that eight substantive areas being tested on the bar exam:

- Civil Procedure
- Criminal Law and Procedure
- Torts
- Contracts
- Evidence
- Constitutional Law
- Real Property
- Administrative Law and Procedure

This list closely parallels the list from the NCBE Study with NCBE adding Business Associations and combining Administrative Procedure with Civil Procedure. Omitted from both lists are long-time bar subjects Community Property, Professional Responsibility, Remedies, and Wills, Trusts, and Estates. The Working Group argues that Remedies and Wills, Trusts, and Estates are covered in part in

Contracts and Torts or could be covered by special licensing or continuing legal education. They felt competence in Professional Responsibility was assured by a law school course, the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam which all prospective lawyers must pass, and the four hours of training in ethics every new lawyer must take in the first year of practice. California law mandates that professional responsibility must be included as a full essay question or part of an essay question on every bar exam, so removing it would require legislation. The Working Group concludes that further study of other possible assessment mechanisms should be undertaken.

Competencies

The Working Group identified six competencies, noting that new testing or assessment mechanisms would be needed to evaluate effectively whether new lawyers have minimum competency in these areas.

- Drafting and Writing
- Research and Investigation
- Issue Spotting and Fact Gathering
- Counsel/Advice
- Litigation
- Communication and the Client Relationship

The Blue-Ribbon Commission on the Future of the California Bar Exam

The California Supreme Court in conjunction with the State Bar have created the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of the California Bar Exam.

This Commission has an ambitious charge covering many issues. Its report is due January 31, 2022.

1. Whether a bar exam is the correct tool to determine minimum competence for the practice of law, and specifications for alternative tools should the commission recommend that alternatives be explored and adopted.
2. Whether there is sufficient alignment in the knowledge, skills, and abilities to be tested by the UBE with the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of entry-

level California attorneys to argue in favor of its adoption by California.

3. If adoption of the UBE is recommended, whether there should be supplementary content and skills tested or trained on to meet specific California needs, and if so, modalities for that testing or training.
4. Revisions to the California Bar Exam if the UBE is not recommended for adoption, addressing:
 - a. Legal topics and skills to be tested: The commission will recommend legal topics and skills to be tested on the bar exam and provide specifications for supplementary testing or training for topics not recommended for inclusion on the exam itself.
 - b. Testing format: In light of the legal topics and skills to be tested, the commission will determine the testing format and design of the exam. The commission will expressly consider whether the examination, including any of its subparts, should be administered online and/or in person.
 - c. The commission will review the appropriateness of the current bar exam pass line and whether it should be changed.”

Conclusion

What a monumental task with major implications for thousands of future hope-to-be attorneys!! It is unlikely any student currently attending SJCL will see many changes in the bar exam unless parts are adopted sequentially. Once decided, it will take years to design, test, and implement any changes. The test is administered every year to 1,000's of graduates. Meaningful evaluation of skills like writing, research ability, litigation skills, and client communication and management would take significant time and human evaluators. Ensuring that scoring was consistent would be crucial. Keeping the cost of the exam and alternatives reasonable will be difficult.

But one word of warning to all SJCL students present and future. Writing skills will be a priority. Amongst current hiring partners, they already are.

Oh, did I say there were three studies? The third posits even more revolutionary proposals.

But more on that another time.

Alumni's MMC Christmas Event Shines in Spite of COVID

The Marjaree Mason Center's Christmas celebration was a great success thanks to the continued generosity of our Alumni.

BY STEFANIE KRAUSE (LAW '00), ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD PRESIDENT

This year, because of COVID restrictions, we were unable to throw our annual party. However, the SJCL Alumni Board and MMC put our heads together and came up with another way to spread holiday joy. We put together baskets for families to take to their rooms and celebrate. The large laundry baskets included blankets, gingerbread village kits, coloring books, art supplies, family games, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Company apples, holiday decorations, packets of "snow," personalized t-shirts for the kids, and a letter from Santa. On delivery day, fellow alumni and elf, Kristina Garabedian, drove Santa Claus in a red convertible pulled by reindeer vehicles. Santa was able to talk to the children as the families received their baskets. There were shouts of joy, some tears, and many thanks.



Thank you to all our Alumni & Friends who contributed to this event.

Thomas Armstrong
Zeppy Attashian
Hon. Gary Austin
Geraldine Brown
Karen Buck
Deborah Byron
Frances Christiansen
Nancy Cisneros
Priscilla Wright Craft
Peter Cummings
Michael Dias
Leslie Dillahunty
Joanna Ebner
Lourdes Espinosa
Sheri Fisher
Donn Furman
Greg Gross
Doug & Marcia Haas
Julie & Charles Hamamjian
William Hazen
Gary Hill
David Ibarra & Jennell Casillas
Rhea Ikemiya
Edward Johnson
Scott Jones
Teresa Petty Jones
Stefanie Krause
Joan Lassley
Richard & Kim Lee
Hon. K. Diane Lushbough
John Malmo
Sean McLeod
Dennis Mederos
Joyce Morodomi
Janice Pearson
Rose Petrosyan
Patricia Pinto
Faith Potter
Eddie Ruiz
Steven F. Salazar
Catherine Sharbaugh
Nancy Silacci
Hon. Geoffrey & Melissa Sims
Thom Snyder
Brad & Christine Stevens
Kimberly Sweidy
Laura Walls
James Witherow
Steve Wright

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!" column!

Gabriel L. Brickey (Law '04) is now a Fresno County Superior Court Judge. Brickey previously served as Chief Deputy District Attorney for Fresno County. He replaces Hon. Don Penner (Law '74), who has retired.

Brian K. Chin (Law '20) is now an Associate Attorney at the DeMaria Law Firm.

Steven C. Clark (Law '95) is the newest partner at Coleman & Horowitz, LLP. The law firm says "Clark has 25 years of trial experience, trying to verdict numerous court and jury trials, including catastrophic injury claims and property damage claims filed against corporations and individuals. Clark will work in the firm's litigation department in the Fresno office representing clients in complex business and real estate litigation, construction litigation, casualty and professional liability defense and creditor rights matters."

Monica A. Coats (Law '87) is now an Administrative Law Judge with the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board. She becomes SJCL's 21st Alumni ALJ and the 58th bench officer among our Alumni ranks.

Alison De Young (Law '15) is now an Appellate Court Attorney at the California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District.

Courtney R. DiPinto (Law '19) is now an Associate Attorney at Hanna Brophy.

Elizabeth A. Egan (Law '95) is now a Fresno County Superior Court Judge. She previously served as Fresno County District Attorney for eight years and is a member of the SJCL Hall of Fame. She replaces Hon. Alan Simpson (Law '83), who has retired.

Jacobo Espindola (Law '20) is now an Associate Attorney at the Caine Law Firm.

Jaskaran S. Gill (Law '17) is now an Associate Attorney with Wilkins Drolshagen & Czeshinski LLP, where he concentrates his practice in the areas of personal injury and civil litigation.

Rachelle Golden (Law '13) has opened the firm of Golden Law A.P.C., focusing on all aspects of ADA defense and consulting, including construction-related access claims, landlord-tenant lease agreements, website-related access claims, employment and public entity work (i.e., transition plan consulting).

Zachary E. Groothuyzen (Law '20) is now an Associate Attorney at Bradford & Barthel LLP.

Claudia N. Juarez (Law '20) is now a Merced County Superior Court Executive Assistant.

Esmeralda Kinney (Law '20) is now an Associate Attorney at Central California Legal Services.

William J. Klomhaus (Law '15) is now employed at the Law Offices of Javier A. Alabart, APC, specializing in Worker's Compensation.

Kelly Liu (Law '20) is now an Associate Attorney at the Law Office of Robert C Abrams.

Amanda V. Metz (Law '20) is now a Legal Analyst working on death penalty cases through the California State Public Defender's Office in Sacramento.

Jesse M. Molina (Law '13) is now the Chief Legal Officer at Aplos. According to its website, "Aplos has served over 40,000 nonprofits with software that is simple, trusted, and uses the best available technology."

Candice J. Moore (Law '13) is now a Deputy Supervising Attorney at the Tulare County District Attorney's Office.

Vong Mouanoutoua (Law '02) has been elected to a second term on the Clovis City Council following a March 2nd special election.

Anthony J. Muia (Law '20) is now an Associate Attorney at Judith Soley Inc.

Lanae Oviedo (Law '20) is now a Housing Staff Attorney at Central California Legal Services.

Manuel Parra, Jr. ('17) is now an Associate Attorney at Wild, Carter & Tipton.

Jesus Pereda, Jr. (Law '20) is now an Attorney at the law offices of Mark A. Broughton, PC.

Angad S. Puniani (Law '20) is now an Associate Attorney at the Law Offices of Michael C. Gong.

Monica A. Rast (Law '20) is now an Associate Attorney at Herr Pedersen and Berglund.

Kelsey A. Seib (Law '18) is now a Fresno Deputy City Attorney.

Zena M. Sin (Law '20) is now an Associate Attorney at Pascuzzi, Pascuzzi & Stoker.

Stephanie M. Snyder (Law '08) is now an Administrative Law Judge at State of California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board. She previously served as a Senior Deputy City Attorney for the City of Fresno.

Ricky Tripp (Law '01) has been appointed by the Governor to the Tulare County Superior Court Bench. He becomes SJCL's 22nd Superior Court Judge.

Pazong M. Vang (Law '20) is now a Fresno County Public Defender.

Elizabeth Villanueva (Law '20) is now a Tulare County Deputy District Attorney.

Shannon N. Wallen (Law '16) is now an Associate Attorney at Law Office of Jessica Smith Bobadilla.

Joshua S. Ziessler (Law '12) is now an Associate Attorney at Bradford & Barthel.

The article *Historical Court Rulings and their Impact on Racism in America* by Daniel Jamison, Esq. that appeared in the winter issue of the *Inter Alia* was originally published in *The Fresno Bee*, 8/21/2020.

Thank you for your support November 1 – February 28, 2021

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

\$50,000+

Darryl ('93) & Gretchen Freedman

\$10,000 - \$49,999

Murray & Francine Farber

\$5,000 - \$9,999

The Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation

SJCL Student Bar Association

\$2,500 - \$4,999

American Board of Trial Advocates

-San Joaquin Valley Chapter

Goldberg & Ibarra

David Ibarra ('10) and Jennell Casillas

League of Women Voters of Fresno

Steven Spencer (Board)

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Nicholas Aniotzbehere ('08)

Randy Ataide ('86)

B&Q Farms

Michael Condry ('80)

Erik Peterson ('07)

Soroptimist International of Clovis

Hon. Barbara St. Louis ('80)

Christopher Watters ('07)

Richard & Diane Watters

\$500 - \$999

Michel Bryant ('91)

Raquel Busani ('18)

Thornton Davidson ('93)

Delta Theta Phi Foundation Inc.

Diana Dooley ('95)

Fear Waddell, PC

Sherrie Flynn ('05)

William Hazen ('86)

Hernandez Law Offices

Joshua Henandez ('18)

Mark Miller (Faculty)

Carol Moses ('92)

Margaret Shainberg ('93)

Sierra IP Law, PC

SJCL Law Students United in Tolerance

Rajinder Sungu ('12)

Kimberly Sweidy ('85)

Riley Walter

\$100 - \$499

William Armbruster ('77)

Norman Avedian

Dennis Bean

Hagop Bedoyan

Mark ('92) & Betsy Blum

Deborah Boyett ('01)

Denise Cahill ('04)

Devin & Claire ('05) Carroll

Richard & Missy (Staff) Cartier

Sonia Cesar-Morales

James Cipolla ('94)

Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity

Andrea Diaz

Kristina Garabedian ('14)

Gregory Gross ('99)

Judith Hall ('91)

Louise Hastrup

Ronald Henderson ('80)

Maribel Hernandez ('04)

Brenda Hook ('06)

Rhea Ikemiya ('09)

Lawrence Kenkel

Anne Kinzel ('87)

Network for Good

Julian Orellana

Janice Pearson (Dean) & Jackson Grode

Mary Rau ('91)

Vernon Reynolds ('10)

David & Elizabeth Roberts

Cynthia Robinson (Staff)

Malcolm Stewart ('77)

Philip Tavlian ('80)

Peter Wall ('08) & Mary Thornton ('08)

Wanger, Jones & Helsley, PC

Howard Watkins

Wells Fargo Foundation

Janet White

Hon. Georgia York ('78)

Other

Amazon Smile Foundation

Fran Christiansen ('79)

Victoria Denny (Staff)

Joby Dupuis ('85)

Brandon Hamparzoomian ('17)

Victor Lupercio Lopez

Stephen Malm ('08)

Candace Martinez

Natasha Moiseyev

Jared Nelson (Staff)

Lin Saberski

Eustolia Sanchez

Diane Skouti (Staff)

Eugene & Margaret Wedoff

You deserve to be properly recognized for your contributions, and we strive for 100 percent accuracy. If we have made an error, please contact Lonsetta Hightower at 559/323-2100 or lhightower@sjcl.edu.

In Memoriam

San Joaquin College of Law notes with sadness the passing of

Trudi G. Manfredo (Law '93) on January 16, 2021. An SJCL Scholarship has been created in her honor.

Sheri Rich Mount (Law '91) on December 15, 2020.

Ann E. Roberts (Law '00) on December 10, 2020. She was a registered nurse prior to her attending and graduating from SJCL. She is survived by a brother, her four children, two stepsons, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband and a brother.



**SAN JOAQUIN
COLLEGE OF LAW**

901 5TH Street
Clovis, CA 93612

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Fresno, CA
Permit No. 394

AND THE SURVEY SAYS

Surveys are an essential tool for evaluation and improvement. We take your opinions very seriously and encourage you to take the time to share them with us.

Your collective responses are used to make data-driven decisions to improve SJCL's curriculum, co-curricular, and alumni services. Your survey will be landing in your inbox very soon! Please let us know your thoughts in our quest for continued excellence.



Know someone that might make a great attorney?

HAVE THEM CONTACT

Diane Steel
Director of Admissions
dsteel@sjcl.edu
559/326-1455

Important Dates

Law School 101
Informational Forum
April 21, 6-8P

June LSAT Registration
Deadline
April 30TH

Final LSAT for Fall
2021 Admissions
June 14TH

Application Deadline
June 30TH

CALLING! ALL ALUMNI!



Join your classmates
in growing the Alumni
Association and sharing
the unique culture.

It's quick and easy to join online.
Go to www.sjcl.edu/alumni
and follow the prompts to join!