

INTER ALIA

SAN JOAQUIN COLLEGE OF LAW • FALL 2023



Gretchen Freedman, wife of Darryl B. Freedman, and their son **Ryan Ramirez**.

In a ceremony on the entrance patio on October 24, 2023, San Joaquin College of Law unveiled a banner announcing that the Clovis Senior Center would become the law school's Darryl B. Freedman Law Library.

BY **JAN PEARSON**, DEAN

A \$1 million gift from Darryl and the Freedman family made the lease-purchase of this building possible. Darryl graduated from SJCL in 1993 and built a personal injury practice dedicated to client service. Darryl wanted the firm, Freedman Law, to do its best for every client. Clearly, he succeeded as many of his former clients attended his celebration of life after Darryl died in 2018.

The Clovis Senior Center staff moved from the building to their fabulous new Clovis Senior Activity Center on November 13, 2023, but it will still be some months before SJCL will have possession of the building and begin renovations. The City of Clovis must first complete repairs specified in the lease-purchase agreement.

The proposed renovations will be consistent with Darryl's and the Freedman family's desire that the Law Library be a center for students. Of course, there will be stacks, but not as many as in the current library as virtually all resources are available through SJCL's digital collection. The largest room will be a "collaboration room," equipped with modular furniture able to create multiple configurations of many sizes for group interaction. This room could be used for events as well. In contrast, another room will be a quiet room with sound-absorbing

SEE **FREEDMAN** PAGE 8

Editorial Staff
Janice Pearson
Diane Skouti Baiza
Mark Enns
Joyce Morodomi

Contributing Writers
Diane Skouti Baiza
Joanna Mendoza
Janice Pearson

Design & Production
Mark Enns

Photography
Mark Enns
Megan Lerma
Diane Skouti

Inter Alia Online
sjcl.edu/interalia

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

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Inter Alia

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Contents



Features

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3 Bar Passers | 11 Beyond the J.D. |
| 4 Hall of Fame | 13 NALC News |
| 6 Inspirational Alumni | 14 SJCL on the Move |
| 7 Resume Exchange | 15 Giving Back |
| 10 New Library Layout | |

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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BACK ROW (L-R): **Mandeep Sanghera, Gurjot Brar, Scott Bishop, and Bianca Lazcano**
 MIDDLE ROW (L-R): Dean of Students **Logan Tennerelli, Jacqueline Andrade, Vladimir Pacheco, Helen Diaz, and Kelly Campbell-McKay**
 FRONT ROW (L-R): **Hannah Janigian, Armida Mendoza, Carragan Huerta, and Jason Oleson**
 NOT PICTURED: **Sarjun Bal, Danielle Patch, Jennifer Gevorkyan, and Lorena Vargas**

Congratulations Bar Passers!

Recent bar passer Helen Diaz had been “adding to cart” online for months leading up to the November 9th announcement of the July bar exam results. At her computer at 6:00pm, with her husband looking over her shoulder, the suprisingly small word “Passed” appeared. Minutes later, after the gasps and the celebratory jumps and hugs, she returned to her online shopping cart and hit “purchase”!

“I didn’t want to buy anything until I knew the results,” she said. “It was a bunch of work outfits, and several months’ worth of items. Once I saw that I passed, I bought it all!”

Helen was joined by 15 fellow SJCL graduates in receiving the dramatic news,

and all were honored at the customary Bar Passer’s Champagne Reception on campus. Many brought family and friends who joined in the celebration and launch of the newest attorneys pending their judicial swearing-in.

Bianca Lazcano said she screamed and cried at first, but then stared at the screen for another two hours to make sure the result didn’t change. “My son was upset and worried because he didn’t understand why I was doing that,” she said.

Vladimir Pacheco was standing in his kitchen at home, “two cocktails in” as he logged into his Cal Bar account. He hadn’t slept the entire week prior. The relief and happiness he felt were hard to match.

Jacqueline Andrade arranged to be at the happiest place on earth - just in case - for bar results. She and her family had decided just that morning to head to Disneyland. She carried her laptop around with her the entire day and had gone on the Raiders of the Lost Ark ride before sitting down in front of the huge Ferris Wheel at California Adventures. Someone had told her that the results sometimes appear earlier than the appointed hour of 6:00pm so she logged in at 5:30. Then she waited. At 6:00pm on the dot, the coveted “P” word appeared. She yelled and cried and celebrated with her companions, but then suddenly realized she wanted to go home! It turns out even the happiest place on earth pales in excitement when dreams really do come true.

Three Honorees Join the Hall of Fame

“Induction into the SJCL Hall of Fame comes with the responsibility of inspiring others to preserve our system of justice and ensure that it remains a bridge of access for all citizens.”



Randy Ataide (Law '86)



Honorable Efren N. Iglesia (Law '76)



Linda McKinsey Rouse (Law '83)

Keynote speaker Mick Marderosian (Law '77), a previous inductee himself, described the significance of joining the honorees whose plaques adorn the walls of the grand hallway on campus. On a gorgeous fall evening, a crowd of over 100 gathered in Veteran's Memorial Park near the southern campus steps, to celebrate the three

the bench. An immigrant from the Marcos controlled Philippines in 1971, Efren was encouraged and supported by a host family in Reedley, where he attended Reedley College and then Fresno Pacific University, prior to landing at SJCL. A member of only the third-ever graduating class, he went on to pass the bar on his first try.

Efren began his career in Fresno practicing criminal defense. He then moved to Imperial County where he served as deputy county counsel. For the next 24 years he supervised attorneys in the land use division of the Monterey County Counsel's office. In 2007 he was appointed to the Monterey County Superior Court, becoming the first Filipino immigrant and Filipino-American to do so.

Fellow inductee Randy Ataide has used his J.D. degree for a career that encompasses areas other than serving as an attorney. While he worked briefly on some cases (his courtroom record is 3 for 3!), Randy has channeled his knowledge of law and a body of business and life experience into a wildly varied career that is not easily defined.

A poor student by his own account, Randy was denied acceptance to Fresno

State in the mid-seventies. He shared this to prove that big success is possible, regardless of how an educational journey begins. With prohibitive overcrowding at City College, Randy decided to postpone college and join the U.S. Navy. He was then deployed overseas. When he returned, he was a changed man, eager to pursue his interests and a multitude of career ideas related to business, the church, and the law. Newly inspired and motivated to succeed, he was - at one point - attending seminary school at Fresno Pacific University (his original interest was theology) during the day, law school at night, and running a vending machine business filling soda and candy machines in between. It was his SJCL study group: Kevin Gunner, Harry Pascuzzi, Ruth Lind, and the late Jim Eidson, who, along with the “wonderful SJCL professors” helped him get through.

While he eventually had to leave seminary school to focus on the law degree, he did go back, some 20 years later, and earned an M.A. in theology.

Randy kept his early connections to agriculture by working with his father-in-law Henry Laemmlen of Reedley during law school, which inspired his love for business and entrepreneurship. In addition to completing Business Executive Management and Business Owner-President Management Programs at both Stanford and Harvard Universities, Randy served



Keynote speaker **Mick Marderosian** (Law '77) and Dean **Janice Pearson**

newest selectees: Honorable Efren Iglesia (Law '76), Linda Rouse (Law '83), and Randy Ataide (Law '86). All three are inspirations.

The Honorable Efren Iglesia retired from the Monterey County Superior Court in 2020, topping off a career that included 31 years as an attorney and another 13 on

as Corporate Counsel for the Laemmlen Family Farming Enterprises in Reedley, and as CEO of Mountain View Fruit Sales, Mountain View Cold Storage, and Summeripe Worldwide LLC.

He is an active investor and partner in multiple startups and ventures in California, Oregon, and Utah, and serves on the advisory or executive boards of various businesses and nonprofits including: Friends of Portugal, Cura Coffee Company, and Fresno Pacific University's Biblical Seminary Committee. He also served as Executive Director and later Associate Dean for Business and Economic Development at the Fermanian School of Business at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, where he was named one of "San Diego's Top 50 Influentials" by the San Diego Daily Transcript. In addition to a number of initiatives and projects in Portugal, Randy helped to create an entrepreneurial co-space and social innovation accelerator called "A Ponte" in Loures, a suburb of Lisbon, Portugal.

Linda Rousse, meanwhile, has worked at the 5th District Court of Appeal since graduating with the class of 1983. Valedictorian of her class, she was hired by Justice Kenneth Andreen, in spite of her lack of legal experience. She figured she would stay there for a few years and then move on. It has been 40 years since she joined the court, and she is proud to say she is still there, loving her job and the people she works with. She has served with several Justices through the years, and has achieved the title of Managing Attorney, the highest position for an attorney in the court. In addition to raising a young family during law school and the start of her legal career, she has overcome cancer, assisted her aging parents, and cared for her husband as he struggled with and lost his 10-year battle with cancer. A beloved and respected member of the court of appeal, Linda has served on numerous committees and teams charged with the duty of improving the justice system, one issue at a time.

After feting the inductees, Mick Marderosian closed the ceremony by citing SJCL's quality legal program and the fine lawyers and judges it has produced. "I can tell you firsthand that the education received here is as good, if not better, than what law students receive in the larger and more recognized schools. We should all be proud of that."



Inspiration Abounds

“There are so many jobs available for attorneys right now, it is a very good time to come to law school!” exclaimed Dean Pearson as she welcomed the newest crop of 1Ls at a reception and panel Q & A in July.

Blistering summertime temperatures did nothing to wilt the spirits of this eager new class as they met for the first time and absorbed the insight offered by a panel of law school experts.

First-year survivor Ali Garcia was among the speakers. Ali shared how she overcame bouts of “imposter syndrome,” that nagging head-voice that tries to convince new law students they don’t belong in law school. “Talk to your professors,” she said, “and find the study method that works best for you.” She recommended taking advantage of instructor office hours (“they are there for a reason!”) and asking upper-level students about their study tactics.

3L (and father of three) Aaron Draper discussed the challenges of balancing time for study around time with his family. He stressed the importance of continually communicating to them why law school is so demanding, what his goals are, and how they will impact the entire family - especially the kiddos, in a positive way. “It helps to ease some of their frustration,” he said.

4L Jacqueline Vasquez asserted to the group, “Everyone here is just as lost as you - it’s okay!” Jacqueline recommended connecting with one another, both as study partners as well as friends. “Your classmates are the only ones who will really understand,” she said. “These are your people now!” Jacqueline recommended that students remain mindful of the opportunity they have (attending law school) to guard against becoming discouraged. Other gems from Jacqueline involved making a bucket list of what each student would like to accomplish as an attorney. “Keep it nearby to remind you of why you are here,” she said. And also, make your mantra: “Just get through tomorrow!”

The ultimate expert panelist, Eddie Ruiz (Law ’95) and SJCL Board Trustee, shared the story of his ascent from field worker to attorney. He told how he and his family of eight lived in a tiny home while working in the fields. “You can imagine my childhood!” he mused. “There was only one bathroom!” But Eddie did well in school and developed an interest in criminology and law enforcement. After undergrad he decided to continue his education, ultimately choosing law. “It (law school) is not easy,” he said. “If it was, everybody would do it.” Eddie said that attending law school was an education in life as well as law. “There are no short cuts. You have to show up, come to class, take any advice you’re given, and just grind.” But, he added, it is well worth it. “There are so many things you can do with a J.D. It’s not just serving as an attorney. If you put in the time now, you will have the opportunities to be highly successful.” Enjoy the journey, Eddie advised. “Coming here was the best decision I ever made.” And he added, “Passing the bar was the best feeling in the world!”



Resume Exchange

Some 50 law students and graduates donned their professional personas, brought a handful of resumes, and a pocketful of plans to the 2nd Annual Resume Exchange on campus in October.

The 2nd floor hallway was packed to capacity with representatives from more than 22 law firms and legal agencies, most of whom were SJCL alumni who “came home” in search of the high caliber interns, clerks, and associates we are known for. Most had several positions they were hoping to fill.

Kyle Roberson, (Law '12) is a Senior Deputy for the Fresno County Counsel's Office. Upon spotting Dean Atkinson near the sign-in table, Kyle offered a hearty handshake and said, “I have to thank you!” Years ago the dean recommended that Kyle consider working at the County Counsel's office after law school. It's the only job Kyle has had or wanted since. “I love it there!” he said. “It's the best for really serving as an attorney.” Kyle says that unlike some agencies and firms, county counsel attorneys have the luxury of time to dig deeply into their cases to do them justice. It's one of the things he says he loves most about his position, where he has served for nine years.

Another SJCL grad, Jessica Weatherly (Law '10) says she too loves her job at the Tulare County District Attorney's Office. She says there are numerous SJCL alumni in the agency and she had come to the resume exchange to try and hire a few more!

Students at all levels said the experience of meeting their predecessors was inspiring as well as liberating. It helped them to see practicing attorneys as fellow people first, which took away some of the nerves that frazzle when they think about their future prospects of becoming a lawyer and joining a firm. “It makes it all less scary,” said one student. “Now I don't feel so intimidated about talking to them, or asking questions.”



Freedman FROM PAGE 1

panels where students can engage in intense individual study. Multiple study rooms of various sizes will create spaces for small-group or individual study and, of course, there will be a student lounge.

Renovation of the Darryl B. Freedman Law Library is only the first step. Thereafter, the current building will be renovated to provide a dedicated office for each student organization, more classrooms, and faculty and clinic offices. Over the years, many people have donated to make all this possible, including the Leon S. Peters Foundation and the Borba Families. Some additional fundraising will be needed to fully complete the renovations.

We cannot predict at this early stage when each step of the renovations will be finished, but we are overwhelmingly excited to get started. Just ask Supervising Librarian Cyndee Robinson!



Ryan Ramirez (L) and Gretchen Freedman talked about Darryl's wish for SJCL.



Dean Jan Pearson describes the planned features of the new Darryl B. Freedman Law Library.



A banner introducing the name of the new law library was unfurled during the event. Once the renovations are complete, a permanent sign will adorn the building.



Dean **Jan Pearson** shared plans for the new law library with ABC affiliate-Channel 30 anchor **Jessica Harrington** as the Clovis Senior Center packed up for the move to their big beautiful center in the new Landmark Square.

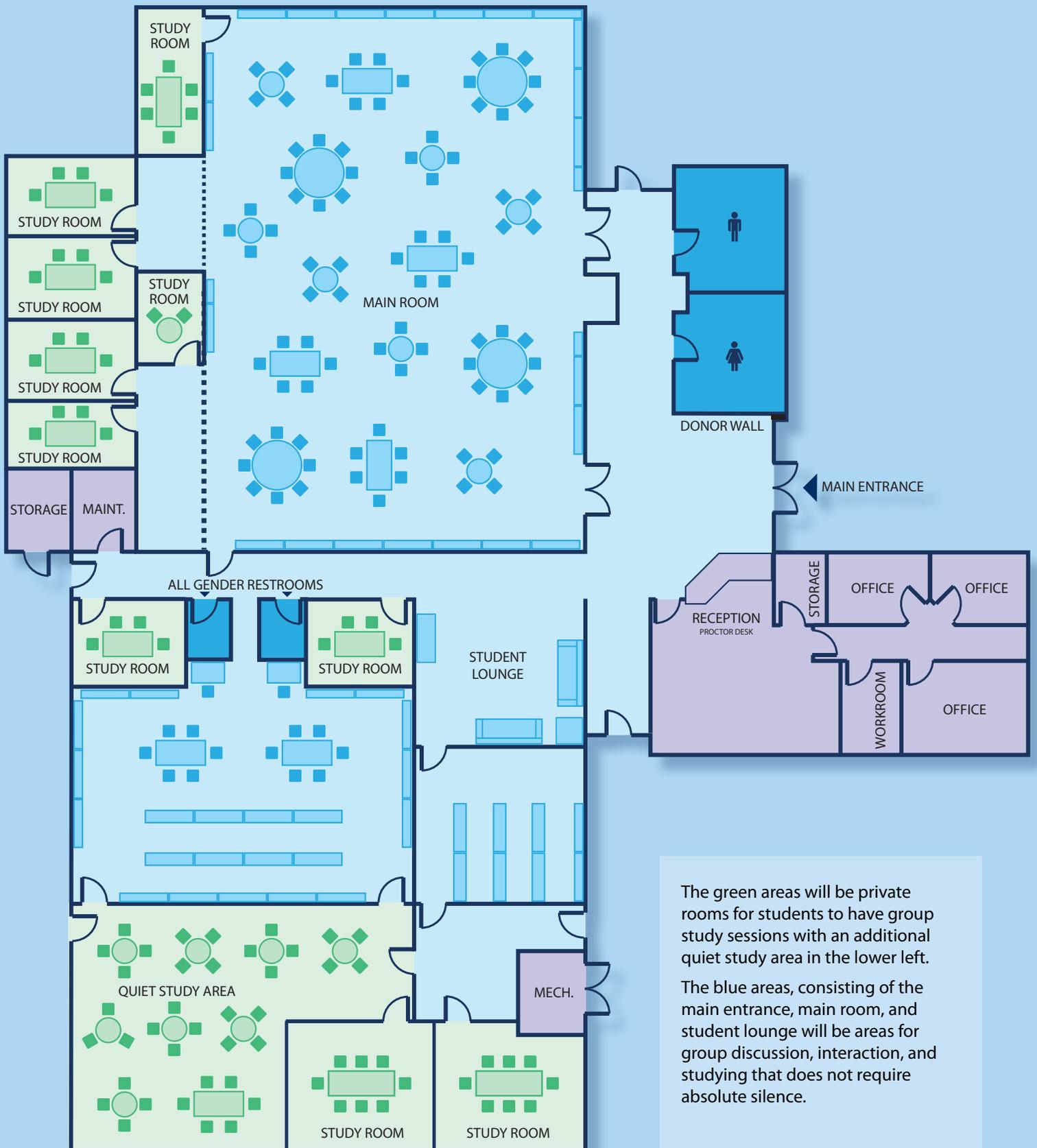


Darryl Freedman was committed to family, as well as his law school alma mater.



Goodies and champagne punch added to the festivities.

Proposed Darryl B. Freedman Law Library Layout



The green areas will be private rooms for students to have group study sessions with an additional quiet study area in the lower left.

The blue areas, consisting of the main entrance, main room, and student lounge will be areas for group discussion, interaction, and studying that does not require absolute silence.

Beyond the J.D.

BY DIANE SKOUTI BAIZA, ALUMNI LIAISON

Benjamin Thomas Greer (Law '08) is an overachiever by anyone's definition. He has been an Emergency Management Coordinator/Instructor II with the California Office of Emergency Services, Homeland Security/Human Trafficking training division since 2017. In addition to his law degree, he graduated from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security master's program in 2022.

Only 30 students are chosen for each USDHS master's program. Benjamin's cohort included coast guardians, a Judge Advocate General (JAG), special FBI agents for cyber security, and border patrol agents, among others. His thesis, *Connecting the Dots of an Opaque Crime: Analyzing California's Human Trafficking Task Force Information Sharing Framework and Practices* was nominated for the outstanding thesis award.

Benjamin's career also includes several presentations/guest lectures (59 both domestic and international), training sessions (26 domestic and international), published articles, reports, and papers (33), and book chapters (6). At the core of it all is his focus on the fight against human trafficking. The duties of his current position revolve around the design and delivery of international and domestic training in counter terrorism and trafficking.

For Benjamin, the interest in law was sparked by an assignment in community college. His professor suggested he think about law school. While working as a re-



Benjamin presenting a training session at Cambridge University, UK.

search attorney for the California District Attorneys Association (CDAA) human trafficking became newly categorized as a felony. This became a focal point for his future work. As a multi-dimensional threat, human trafficking not only deprives people of their human rights and freedoms, it also promotes societal breakdown, puts global health at risk, inhibits geographical development, and fuels organized crime. (CIA.gov, 2023)

With his interest piqued in 2009, Benjamin began researching and writing law review articles on the subject. "The [human trafficking legal response framework] laws needed modifications," he said. "I started to see some success in finding publication in law schools and international universities. I was invited to lecture in more than 10 countries and about 30 universities."

As evidenced by how big a problem human trafficking has become, Benjamin is constantly in demand as a speaker and trainer across the globe. This begs the question, what is driving the demand? What has caused the rapid growth of human trafficking and exploitation in our supposedly

modern world? "It's [often referred to as] the modern version of slavery," Benjamin says. And it has grown because of our worsening social and environmental ills. Even with legislatures and law enforcement battling this scourge, it continues to spread and pose asymmetric threats worldwide.

Between 2008 and 2019, the number of human trafficking victims throughout the world more than quadrupled. (Statista, 2023) True figures are likely even greater, due to the hidden and shadowy nature of the crime.

"It's all about vulnerability," Benjamin says. "If vulnerability is present, there will be someone who wants to exploit it. Immigrants lacking a family nucleus are vulnerable, as are those who don't easily find their place in society. An absence in the hierarchy of needs: shelter, food, and resources, invite vulnerability. The criminal element will always try to exploit these situations".

Additionally, natural, and man-made disasters like destructive weather, war, fires, the mental health crisis, poverty, homelessness, and the like, contribute to the growth of human trafficking and exploitation. Post hurricane Katrina in 2005 brought attention to the situation when forced and exploited labor was tapped to rebuild after the storm. Once the connection between crisis and exploitation was made, experts like Benjamin could refine and refocus their efforts.

The plight of children orphaned by natural disasters is a tragic form of collateral damage. They are extremely vulnerable during the aftermath of any type of devastation, like that of multiple Haitian earthquakes over the past decade. In the international adoption market, orphaned children become commodities with a price tag of around \$40,000. So-called "rescue



adoptions” sometimes turn out to be a front for human trafficking – compounding the tragedy.

In his role as an educator and trainer of emergency managers and law enforcement, Benjamin focuses on the skills needed to identify the dynamics of trafficking. One class he teaches involves the effect severe forms of trauma have on the brain. How trauma can transform a trafficked victim’s brain neuroplasticity, which in turn can cause victims to give inconsistent accounts of their story. Teaching trauma-informed care helps law enforcement and emergency managers have proper perspective when identifying and working with trafficking victims.

The International Labor Organization (ILO), a sub-agency of the United Nations, estimates that worldwide, there were 27.6 million victims of human trafficking in 2022. While the number of human trafficking victims increased last year, convictions of traffickers globally, has dropped since the years prior to COVID.

But the outlook, Benjamin says, is not all doom and gloom. California is known for developing and implementing best practices in the anti-trafficking field. He relayed a story about a Polish professor he met once in pub in Scotland. The professor asked about pending legislation he knew of in California. “People are aware of what California is doing because we are having a positive impact,” Benjamin said.

In 2015, Benjamin had the opportunity to travel to and train the Trinidad and Tobago Counter-trafficking Unit (CTU). While there, the CTU received a tip of a suspected residential brothel. The CTU and the Trinidad crown prosecutor sought his advice on the drafting of the search warrants and the collection of evidence at the scene. Benjamin recently received word that the case led to Trinidad’s first national conviction under their anti-trafficking laws.

Benjamin says that law school provided the space and oxygen that allowed his creativity and analytical skills to flourish.

Trafficking in Persons. 2023. The World Fact Book. Retrieved from: Trafficking in persons - The World Factbook (cia.gov)
Human trafficking – Statistics & Facts. September 29, 2023. Statista Research Department, Statista. Retrieved from: Human trafficking - Statistics & Facts | Statista



The team at SJCL's NALC has built a stellar reputation for serving the immigrant community.

SJCL Immigration Clinic Shines

The New American Legal Clinic (NALC) at San Joaquin College of Law has established a reputation as a highly effective server of the immigrant community in the Central Valley. So effective, in fact, that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) recently increased their grant award for 2023, by nearly double.

The clinic, which trains law students in immigration law and serves under-resourced individuals at no charge, employs two DOJ accredited representatives, a client services coordinator, a post bar law clerk, an administrative assistant, two student law clerks, and two immigration attorneys, one of whom is the clinic director and one of only five Certified Immigration Specialists in the San Joaquin Valley. A cadre of student interns assist with cases involving removal defense, naturalization, asylum, victims of domestic violence, serious illness and medical needs, and family-based immigrant visas, among others. The clinic is wholly supported by grants. Since 2012, the USCIS and other grant providers have awarded funding to NALC, as a

service that sits in the heart of a major immigration target area.

Of the clinic’s many claims to fame, the staff has met or exceeded their case work (also known as deliverables in grant-speak) every year since it opened in 2013. They serve over 700 cases each year and have helped well-over 3,400 individuals obtain citizenship.

As just one of the crowning jewels at SJCL, we are quite proud of our NALC attorneys and students. Such success has caused a need for additional staff. The clinic is seeking a Staff Attorney with 3-5 years of administrative experience specific to immigration work, or one year in immigration law. For the complete job announcement and more information please visit the NALC tab at sjcl.edu

A Long Awaited Gift

The Holidays are the happiest time of the year, but this year, Christmas will be merrier than usual in the Mendoza home, because we will celebrate the arrival of a long-awaited blessing, my dad's lawful permanent residency.

BY JOANNA MENDOZA (4L)

My father has lived in the United States for 26 years with no legal status, but after what seemed like an endless wait, he is now a lawful permanent resident of the United States. My family and I were thrilled when we received my dad's green card in the mail the day before his birthday! My mother had been diligently picking up the mail with the hopes that my dad's newly obtained lawful permanent residency card would arrive in time to be my dad's birthday present and it happened!

Fortunately, my mother became a lawful permanent resident in 2020, but my father's case was more complex. My father had consulted with attorneys previously but was told that his case was risky and difficult. I talked to my parents about the work that I was doing at SJCL's New American Legal Clinic as a student advocate. I shared that NALC was often willing to take cases that no one else would take due to complexity.

Eager for another opinion, my parents requested a consultation with NALC Managing Director, Linda Barreto. Director Barreto explained the risks but was confident that they could be overcome. NALC accepted the case for representation, and I was assigned as the case manager. I was thrilled that I'd be able to work on my dad's case. Under the supervision of Director Barreto, I meticulously researched and prepared the case. The case was submitted to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on May 30, 2023. Due to the complexity of his case, we received a request for evidence in August. Director Barreto and I worked together to submit the requested evidence. We waited on pins and needles for USCIS to issue the decision but finally on October 30, 2023, we received notification that his case was approved. I was overwhelmed with emotion and joy.

Growing up as a daughter of undocumented immigrants influenced my decision to become a lawyer and help families,



Soon to be SJCL graduate Joanna Mendoza and her father Jose celebrate the arrival of his green card.

especially my own, reach their American Dream by obtaining legal status in the United States.

Immigrants like my parents come to this country by any means possible to provide their families with a better future. Inspired by their sacrifices, I have always aimed to repay my parents' migration journey by paving a successful life and equipping myself with a higher education. I have dreamed about the day I became an attorney and was able to help my dad adjust his status, fortunately, this was achieved before I even became an attorney! My dad would not have his green card and none of this would have been possible without the help of the entire NALC team, but especially the Director of the NALC, Attorney Linda Barreto.

I am so grateful for this happy outcome for my family and for the learning experience, I had while working on the case under the supervision of Director Barreto. I hope to soon become an immigration attorney so that I can continue to help other immigrant families pursue their American Dreams.



NALC Serves at Large-Scale Immigration Event

A team of six NALC staff members and five SJCL students joined over 20 community partners to present an immigration workshop at Fresno Adult School on a Saturday in late September. NALC Director Linda Barreto said her team collectively served 40 people with cases ranging from naturalization, VAWA, T Visa, U Visa, and removal defense. Event organizer Jesus Martinez, Ph.D., and Executive Director of CVIIC, said the goal of the event was to provide trustworthy and professional immigration legal assistance to those seeking immigration.

On the Move

Aman Mann Chahal (married name: Aman Chahal), Law '22 is now an Associate Attorney with Carter Law Group, Fresno where she practices Personal Injury Law.

Daniel Cisneros (Law '20) started last week as a Deputy City Attorney with the City of Fresno.

Clare Demera (Law '21) is now an Associate Attorney with Barsamian & Moody, practicing Labor & Employment Law. Claire joins fellow SJCL graduates Seth Mehrten (Law '13) Shareholder, Vismaad Gondara (Law '18) Associate Attorney, and Jesus Pereda (Law '20) Associate Attorney.

Leticia Guzman (Law '20) has returned to the CA Court of Appeals in Fresno where she clerked prior to being admitted to the Cal State Bar.

Ryan Heller (Law '22) is now a Deputy District Attorney with the Merced County District Attorney's Office.

Laura Higareda-Chapa (Law '22) is now with the Tulare County Public Defender's Office.

Stephanie Landeros (Law '22) is now an associate attorney with White Canapa, Fresno where she practices Civil Litigation and Medical Malpractice.

Mario Mella (Law '21) is an Asylum Officer with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Sean Quint (Law '21) is now an Associate Attorney with The Caine Law Firm, Fresno where he practices Criminal Defense Law.

Bethany Silsby (Law '19) is now a Deputy District Attorney with the Tulare County District Attorney's Office.

April Woods started a new position in July as an attorney at Mullen & Filippi, LLP.

Evan Wright (Law '20) has opened Central Valley Law where he specializes in family law.

Milestone

Kelly Liu (Law '20) and her husband Jayson just had their first child, a baby boy named Valen. Kelly is with the Fresno County Superior Court and says she loves it there.

Please keep us in your loop by completing the form at www.sjcl.edu/onthemove. Emails and phone calls are welcome too. Contact Diane Skouti at dskouti@sjcl.edu or (559) 326-1463 to share your news!

In Memoriam



Kimberly Lynn (Holweger) Mayhew (Law '98) lost her battle with cancer at the age of 57 on September 25, 2023. Kimberly earned her Bachelor's degree in journalism from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and a Masters in mass communications from Fresno State prior to her J.D. Before beginning her career in law she had a career as a journalist at the Bakersfield Californian and the Fresno Bee. She was very active in alumni events and activities, and served on the Alumni Board of directors. She was Editor of the SJCL Law Review and worked as a distinguished attorney for 25 years.



Christopher Noyes (Law '09) passed away suddenly on September 6, 2023. He was 40 years old. Christopher was a partner at Kabateck LLP, in Los Angeles, where he served for nearly 10 years as a seasoned and highly successful trial lawyer. Prior to his move to the Los Angeles firm, Christopher was named partner at a Fresno firm where he obtained a record setting jury-trial verdict that still stands as the biggest to date in Kings County.

We strive to honor and recognize those SJCL alumni who have departed. If you know of anyone who should be acknowledged, please contact us at: dskouti@sjcl.edu

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If we have made an error, please contact Victoria Denny at 559/323-2100 or vdenny@sjcl.edu.



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