

Summer 2001

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SJCL Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

SJCL students receive top honors

Three SJCL students, Kim Raven, Dianna Setoodeh, and Alex Peltzer, recently received top honors after participating in the Roger J. Traynor California Moot Court Competition.

By **Jon Conklin & Stan Boone**

Moot Court Directors

The legal brief submitted by the San Joaquin Students was judged to be the Best Brief from all submitted by law schools during the Roger J. Traynor California Moot Court Competition. The students were also awarded a \$1200 scholarship by the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers, who helped sponsor the competition. Besides being recognized for submitting the Best Brief, the three member team

placed Fourth Place over all in the competition

The Traynor Moot Court Competition is a nationally recognized appellate moot court competition that is held annually in California. This year the competition was held at

Golden Gate University School of Law School, located in San Francisco, on April 21 and 22. Sixteen law schools from throughout California participated

in the event. Some of the competing schools included University of California, Berkeley (Boalt Hall), University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law (UCLA), University of California, Davis, School of Law, and Hastings College of the Law.

In order to participate in the competition, participating law school teams had to submit a written legal brief and then participate in oral arguments during which they presented their arguments to a three judge-panel. The problem was based on a real case and

See Competition page 7



Showing off their Best Brief award are (L-R) **Dianna Setoodeh, Alex Peltzer, and Kim Raven**

SJALR Celebrates 10 Years

An important legal resource for the agricultural community.

By **Trisha Beckstead**

SJALR Editor in Chief

San Joaquin College of Law publishes the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review. The Law Review has, in its 10 year history, accomplished much.

Students of San Joaquin College of Law are responsible for the annual publication of the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review. The student members of the Law Review gather, edit, and publish articles, written by legal scholars and practitioners, and comments and case notes, written by student members, focusing on legal issues related to agriculture. The law review provides an objective, national forum for analyzing issues affecting agriculture. Indeed, as part of a cooperative agreement, the Department of Agriculture teamed with San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review in 1999 to help produce a symposium issue limited to the topic of agricultural cooperatives.

As California's Central Valley is the great agricultural supplier for the world, it is appropriate that the Law Review focuses on legal issues affecting agriculture. Proudly, San Joaquin College of Law published the very first law review devoted to agricultural in 1991. Today, the Law

Review is one of only two national Law Reviews devoted to agriculture.

The San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review has received judicial and critical recognition. Recently, the California Supreme Court cited a San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review

comment written by Deborah Boyett, last year's Editor-in-Chief of Law Review, in its opinion dealing with generic commodity advertising. (See

Gerawan Farming, Inc. v. Lyons (Nov. 27, 2000, S080610) 2000 Cal. Lexis 8927.

Moreover, San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review has received critical attention on numerous occasions from the National Law Journal.

The San Joaquin College of Law prints

approximately 1,000 copies of each issue of the Law Review. 500 copies are distributed to students, faculty, and subscribers. The remaining 500 copies are reserved for sale, file copies,



The 2001-02 *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* Board of Editors (L-R) **Erin Rhames** (Law '02), *Executive Editor*; **Jodi Woodsmith** (Law '03), *Managing Editor*; and **Trisha Beckstead** (Law '02), *Editor in Chief*.

“Today, the Law Review is one of only two national Law Reviews devoted to agriculture.”

and library copies. The cost of printing the Law Review is defrayed by subscriptions and donations and is underwritten, in part, by the college. Subscriptions are only \$15 per volume. If interested in subscribing, please contact the Production Editor at San Joaquin College of Law at (559) 323-2100.

The San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review is now soliciting professional articles for Volume 12. The Law Review welcomes the submission of articles, comments, and case notes. If you are interested in submitting, or have questions concerning, a professional article, please contact this year's Executive Editor, Ms. Erin Rhames. Ms. Rhames may be reached at 681-4618.



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SJCL given historic preservation award

The Fresno City and County Historical Society honors SJCL for the renovation of its facility (originally the Clovis High School building).

At a ceremony on May 19, 2001, the Fresno City and County Historical Society awarded San Joaquin College of Law its 2001 Award of Excellence for Historic Preservation. This awarded recognized SJCL's outstanding achievement in the preservation and maintenance of the historic Clovis High School, SJCL's new home since December, 1997. Hundreds of people attended the ceremony as part of a day-long event opening the historic administration building at Fresno City College to the general public. SJCL made every effort to maintain the historic character of the old Clovis High School in the renovation. Sky lights in the ceiling were unboarded and repaired, pieces of the old

radiators were retained in classrooms, the original light fixtures in the courtroom were restored, old hand blown glass windows were cleaned, and the decorative features of the old auditorium restored. Stairs were built over the ramps for safety reasons, but the ramps remain intact beneath. With the help of the Clovis community and Clovis High graduates, the exterior was repainted in historically correct colors.



SJCL's representatives (L-R) **Maureen Hayes, Cadee Ohanesian** (Law '02), **Jan Pearson, Joan Lassley, and Gwen Watt** gratefully accepted the award.

The success of the renovation is largely attributable to the work of the architect, William Patnaude of Lew & Patnaude, and Linda Raiche, then Director of Operations for the law school.

Congratulations CA bar passers



Congratulations to the following graduates who passed the February 2001 California State Bar Examination: (L-R) **Susan Purvis, Ann Roberts, Jason Bell, Debra Mosley, Dennis Verzosa, and Tiffany Smith-Henson** (not pictured).

Full-Time Faculty

Lawrence M. Artenian, Richard M. Cartier, Denise M. Kerner, Janice L. Pearson, Sally A. Perring, Jeffrey G. Purvis

Adjunct Faculty

Marc C. Ament, Hon. James A. Ardaiz, Jesse J. Avila, Barry J. Bennett, Salvador M. Blanco, Stanley A. Boone, Hon. Anthony Dennis Caeton, David M. Camenson, Catherine J. Cerna, Jonathan Conklin, John P. Eleazarian, Christine Goodrich, Sara Hedgpeth-Harris, Kathi Kesselman, Michael P. Mallery, Hon. Vincent J. McGraw, William T. McLaughlin II, Mark D. Miller, Hon. Lawrence J. O'Neill, Douglas E. Noll, Deborah Davis Owdom, Rosendo Pena, Jr., Russell K. Ryan, Rose Safarian, Rene Turner Sample, Sarah A. Schmidt, Michael Seng, David J. Weiland, E. Robert Wright

Graduation

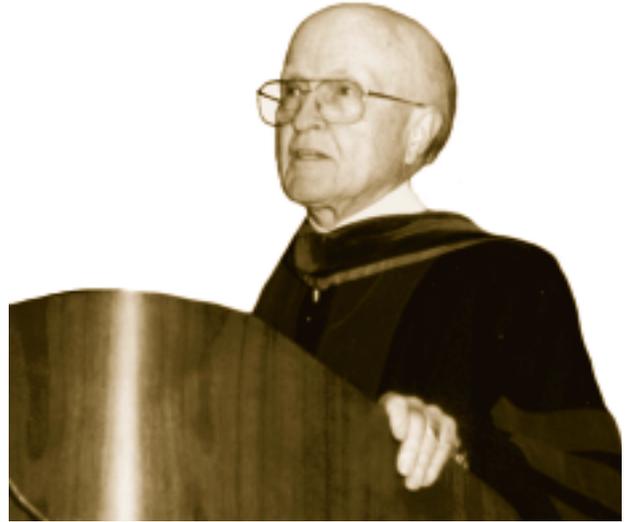
On June 2, 2001 San Joaquin College of Law celebrated its Twenty-Seventh Graduation at the William Saroyan Theater in Fresno.

SJCL was honored to have John Loomis as commencement speaker. Michelle Pepper delivered the Valedictorian address.

The students graduating at the top of their class with high honors were Geoffrey Michael Adalian, Alex Marshall Peltzer, Michelle Pepper, Kimberly Dawn Raven, and Dianna R. Setoodeh. Kathryn Louise McTigue-Floyd, David Allen Moreno, David Lee Tew, and Ricky Tripp graduated with distinction.

Congratulations go out to Steven Mark Alexander, Ann Findlay Bennett, Beth Ann Best, Jeffrey David Bohn, Deborah K. Boyett, Daniel Americo Bruce, James Robert Butterworth, Kira Denise Chronister, Tara Mikalene Crabtree, Nirmal Deswal, Thomas V. Dillon, Gina Marie Fazio, David M. Gale, Suzanne Karen Golden, Hugo E. Gomez-Vidal, Loraine Margaret Goodwin, Julie Griffin, Grace Lynette Harrison, Paul Carter Mullen, Nidavone Niravanh, Marilyn Taylor Olson, Yolonda Reeves, Joel Brent Richardson, Michael Ridge Sobyra, Wesley Eugene Stupar, Donna M. Taghdiri, Daniel Adrian Velarde, Mara H. Ventura, Nick Zinkin, and Denise Eileen Zuniga

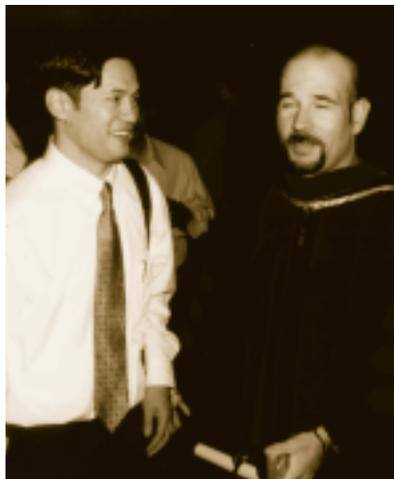
Also celebrating are James G. Tod who earned his Master of Science degree in Taxation.



John Loomis delivers the commencement address. The complete transcript of his address can be found on SJCL's website at www.sjcl.edu.



David Moreno, Paul Mullen, Nidavone Niravanh, Marilyn Olson, Alex Peltzer, Michelle Pepper, Kim Raven, and Yolonda Reeves.



SJCL Graduates Ricky Tripp and Tom Dillon



Wesley Stupar presented his degree by **Jan Pearson**



Nick Zinkin, Nida Niravanh, and Daniel Bruce



Michelle Pepper delivers the valedictorian address.



Geoff Adalian suddenly realizes he has to get a "real job."



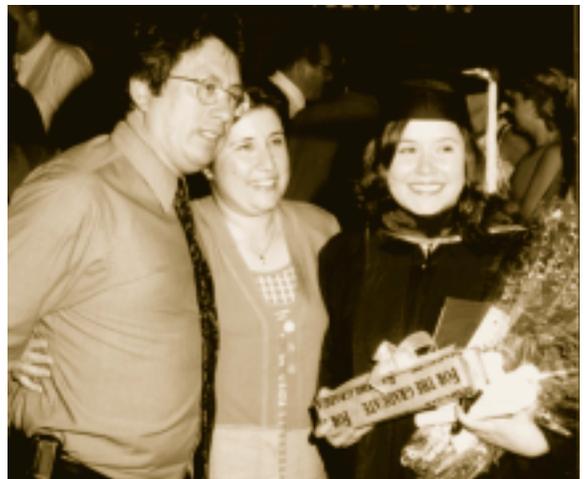
Michael Sobyra and Stefanie Krause-Cota (Law '00)



Jeff Bohn with his son Garrett.



Yolonda Reeves (R) with her mother **Mary Reeves** (L)



Denise Zuniga's former supervisor at Cal Trans **Jose Ruano** and his wife **Annabella** congratulate her on her graduation.

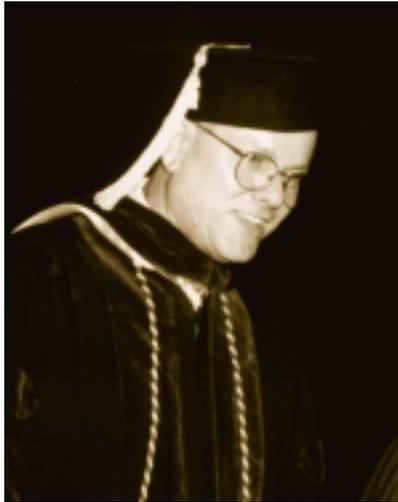
Graduation



Carol Sellers Herbert and James Herbert are presented honorary degrees from SJCL.



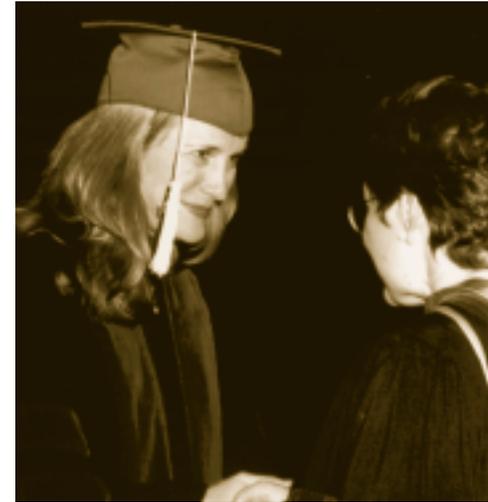
Mara Ventura and Daniel Velarde.



David Tew



Julie Griffin



Beth Best presented her degree by Jan Pearson.

Staff

Janice L. Pearson, Dean; **Sally A. Perring**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; **Lawrence M. Artenian**, Professor of Law; **Richard M. Cartier**, Professor of Law / Family Mediation Center Director; **Denise M. Kerner**, Professor of Law / Small Claims Supervisor; **Jeffrey G. Purvis**, James K. and Carol Sellers Herbert / Professor of Constitutional Law;

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Alumni profiles

The year 2001 is the Twentieth Anniversary of the graduation of the Class of 1981 and the Tenth Anniversary of the Class of 1991. Throughout the year, we will be letting you know “where they are now.”

1991

Robert Schmale

Bob began working as a law clerk for Wild, Carter & Tipton after his first year of law school. He joined the firm as an associate upon graduation and became a partner in 1996. Bob's practice is principally business litigation, representing banks in large collections and real estate matters, along with some entertainment law.

Bob has a six-year old son that occupies a significant chunk of his free time. Bob's other love in life is music. Bob has been the musical soul of many a Spring Banquet at SJCL. His band, Get Back, regularly plays at large corporate events. Bob also has a recording studio in his home. In addition, he likes to snow ski and jet ski.

As to law school, Bob said, “I actually enjoyed it!” He found class discussions stimulating whereas practice can be more routine.

Deborah Coe

Deborah worked first as a paralegal, then as a law clerk, then as Associate, and finally as a partner with Parichan, Renberg, Crossman & Harvey through September of 1999. She did personal injury cases, mostly from the defense perspective and mostly product liability. She worked on a number of cases that arose out of the Interstate 5 chain reaction accident in the dust some years ago, taking 130 depositions in three months. Since she moved to Baker Manock & Jensen in 1999, she has worked principally on environmental tort, product liability, and personal injury cases. Deborah says she loves to be in the courtroom.

Apparently, Deborah loves to be on all sides in the courtroom. She regularly serves as Pro Tem in Small Claims cases. She has been intrigued by the serious issues and obscure statutes that become significant in Small Claims cases.

Outside the courtroom, Deborah loves to go to yoga class, play tennis, garden, work on her house, and play with her dog. She has a garage full of tools and recently experienced the excitement of buying her own compound mitre saw. She is on a first-name basis with the staff at Home Depot. She is also watching proudly as her daughter completes her degree at Fresno State.

As to law school, Deborah's first memory was climbing over the wall next to the old SJCL to get to the doughnut shop; she became quite adept at that feat. Deborah remembers crying all the way to and from school every day for the first month. She says you could have blown her over with a feather when she discovered that she had done well on the first midterms. Deborah also remembers the wonderful camaraderie of her class.

Jeffrey Levinson

Jeff's entire legal career has been with Griswold, LaSalle, Cobb, Dowd & Gin in Hanford. He handles all of the firm's family law matters as well as collection/creditors' bankruptcy work, real property, landlord-tenant disputes, and general business litigation.

Jeff is President of the West Hills Community College District Board of Trustees. The Board is currently working on the first phase of construction of a \$100 million campus in Lemoore. Jeff is also President of the Kings County Bar Association.

What little free time Jeff has is spent with his wife and two daughters. The oldest, Julie, has just graduated from high school. The youngest, Jennifer, was born in May before Jeff started law school in August of 1987. She will be participating at the Junior Olympics in volleyball the end of June in Salt Lake City, Utah.

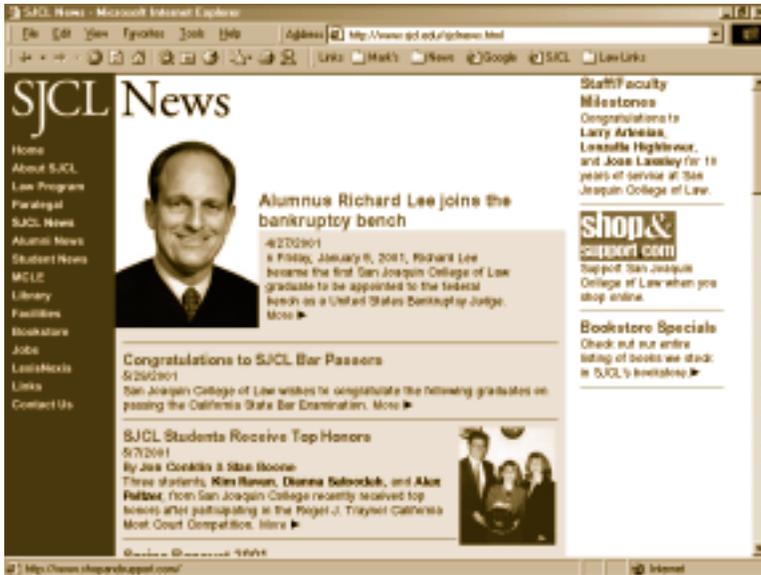
Jeff remembers that the first year of law school was very, very difficult. Given the work and the commute from Lemoore, he just wanted law school to be over as soon as possible.

Competition from page 1

involved the liability of a city for the dangerous condition of an intersection where a fatal traffic accident occurred.

The team was coached by Jon Conklin and Stan Boone, both local attorneys who are also adjunct professors at the Law School. They commented that the recognition the students received speaks very highly of the Law School. “This award simply affirms what members of the legal community in this Valley have known for years: San Joaquin College of Law offers a high quality legal education that enables its students to compete with those from other top law schools throughout the state.”

www.sjcl.edu



Did you know that the Inter Alia articles are published on San Joaquin College of Law's website at www.sjcl.edu? SJCL is able to give you more content and the photos are published in color. In this issue SJCL published John Loomis' complete commencement address, something that would not be possible in the printed edition. John Loomis, one of three founders of the law school, details Judge Eyman's role in founding the school.

We want updates

We want to know what you are doing. Include your current address, family information, recent accomplishments, and any other information or photos you would like to provide. Then send us your information by fax: (559) 323-5566, email: menns@sjcl.edu, or mail it to: Mark Enns, SJCL, 901 5th Street, Clovis, California 93612.

We need your donation

SJCL is in need of some new computers. If you have a Pentium II or better computer that you would like to donate please contact Ken Coyle at 323-2100.

We also accept office furniture donations and are in need of a small conference table. Please contact Joan Lassley to arrange any donations.

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