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SJCL Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

SJCL students take top honors overall

Ed Johnson, Greg Norys and Lillian Weiland received the best overall advocate team and best brief awards in the Roger J. Traynor California Moot Court Competition.

For the second year in a row, students from San Joaquin College of Law received the top honors in the state wide Roger J. Traynor Moot Court Competition. This year's participants were Ed Johnson, Greg Norys and Lillian Weiland. Their legal brief was awarded the "California Academy of Appellate Lawyers Award for Brief Writing." Based on scores from their oral arguments and the written brief, the students were awarded the "Bernard E. Witkin Award for Excellence in Legal Advocacy." It recognizes the best overall advocate team in the competition. The students were awarded

a \$1200 scholarship by the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers, which sponsored the competition, along with the Witkin Legal Institute.

The Traynor Moot Court Competition is a nationally recognized appellate moot court competition held annually in California. This year seventeen California law schools participated including 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.

The team was coached by Assistant United States Attorneys Jonathan B. Conklin and Stanley A. Boone, adjunct professors for SJCL. They said "These students competed against the best in the state and took top honors overall. That accomplishment, and what it says about the high quality education provided to the students at San Joaquin College of Law, should be recognized by this community and throughout the State."



(L-R)
Greg Norys,
Lillian Weiland,
and Ed Johnson

Scholarship Recipients



Some of the Student Scholarship Recipients (L-R): Craig Collins, Cynthia Secula, Lillian Weiland, Robirda Lyon, Spencer Gong, Devon Darrow, Ron Nijmeddin, Ana Moore, Roland Soltesz, Michelle Sassano, Gina Miller, Ed Johnson, Cadee Ohanesian, Ken Jorgensen, and Trisha Beckstead.

Alumnus / Alumna of the year...

SJCL is soliciting nominations for Alumnus or Alumna of the Year for 2002. This award intends to honor the SJCL graduate each year who most contributes to the betterment of the legal profession. The award will be presented at the All Class Reunion scheduled for September 2002. Please send your nominations to Dean Janice Pearson at SJCL.

On a lighter note, SJCL is also soliciting ideas for more humorous awards. Do you have any suggestions? Someone proposed "Alumnus Appearing in The Fresno Bee Most Often" but we are sure you can come up with more creative ideas.

RECIPIENT NAME	SCHOLARSHIP
Roland Soltesz	<i>Albert Ramirez Bail Bonds Scholarship</i>
Ana M. Moore	<i>Brown Scholarship for Women and Minorities</i>
Gina Miller	<i>James K. & Carol Sellers Herbert Scholarship</i>
Gladys Rodriguez	<i>Ernest S. Kinney Trial Lawyers Scholarship</i>
Michelle Sassano	<i>Alumni Association Carolyn T. Mirviss Scholarship</i>
Trish Beckstead	<i>Leon S. Peters Leadership Award</i>
Cadee Ohanesian	<i>Leon S. Peters Leadership Award</i>
Spencer Gong	<i>Leon S. Peters Leadership Award</i>
Elias Suakjian	<i>Leon S. Peters Leadership Award</i>
Travis Stokes	<i>Leon S. Peters Leadership Award</i>
Ed Johnson	<i>Alumni Association Spirit of SJCL</i>
Marjorie Bookout	<i>Woman Lawyer Scholarship</i>
Ken Jorgensen	<i>The Founders' Scholarship</i>
Erin Rhames	<i>Delta Theta Phi Scholarship</i>
Michelle Sassano	<i>Delta Theta Phi Scholarship</i>
Ron Nijmeddin	<i>Family Law Scholarship</i>
Cynthia Secula	<i>Legal Edge Consumer Scholarship</i>
Lillian Weiland	<i>Leroy Long Memorial Scholarship</i>
Craig Collins	<i>Student Bar Scholarship</i>
Devon Darrow	<i>Student Bar Scholarship</i>
Mellanie Melland	<i>Student Bar Scholarship</i>
Ed Johnson	<i>Business Journal Research & Writing Award</i>
Robirda Lyon	<i>Business Journal Research & Writing Award</i>



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First year law student on A&E's American Justice

First year student Michael Elder was inspired to attend law school because of his experience serving as a juror in the Dana Ewell criminal prosecution in Fresno. It got



Michael Elder (Law '05)

him on TV, as well. A&E's show, American Justice, did a special on the jurors in the case and Mike was one of the jurors featured. The show aired in January 2002. Now American Justice has taped a two-hour Tenth Anniversary special

which will air this fall, showing the long-term impact of the trial on selected jurors' lives.

American Justice followed Mike with a TV camera for a day, starting early in the morning and ending in his first-year Contracts class taught by Professor Larry Artenian.

Mike explains that "As a member of the Ewell jury I became aware of how our jury system needs improvement." In a trial that lasted seven months, Mike realized the attorneys who were advocates for the jurors (i.e. asking for a recess when they noticed the jurors were tired) got more sympathy from those jurors and had a major effect on the jurors' during their deliberations.

One of the major changes Mike would like to make is in the amount of

information jurors are allowed. Mike points out that in Arizona, unlike California, jurors are allowed to talk to each other and receive more information about the trial.



Mike believes his business management experience with Pacific Bell and his knowledge of how to advocate for jurors will give him an advantage in jury trials. "Jurors need information presented in a very organized manner that gives them just what they need—too much informa-

tion and they become overwhelmed, too little and you lose your case," he says. He also points out that since attorneys are seldom allowed to sit on a jury, he will have the advantage of having lived the juror's experience.

Paralegal Graduates



Pam Ramirez, Director of the Paralegal Program (R) and San Joaquin College of Law congratulate the following paralegal graduates: (L-R) Dennis Martinez, Jeff Jones, Kris Tyra, Serita Rios, Barbara Brooks, Carolyn Black, Fred Vongehr, Amy Schrieber, Craig Martins, and Lori Cain.

Full-Time Faculty

Lawrence M. Artenian, Richard M. Cartier, Denise M. Kerner, Kathryn McTigue-Floyd, 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, Lloyd Carter, Catherine J. Cerna, Jonathan Conklin, John P. Eleazarian, Robin Flowers, 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

2002 Spring Banquet

SJCL's 2002 Spring Banquet was a roaring success. Held Friday March 8, 2002, the banquet featured a hilarious roast of Fresno Mayor Alan Autry. The SJCL Student Bar Association organized a multi-faceted event which began with hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. Gordon Park served as Master of Ceremonies for the student award presentations and the roast which followed dinner. The evening ended with a live auction ably conducted by John Wallace. The event's proceeds went to SJCL's endowment fund.

Mayor Autry graciously endured the barbs of each roaster. Pat Hill, Fresno State Head Football Coach, shared stories of Mayor Autry's "success" as the quarterback for the Green Bay Packers (1975-1977); the Mayor holds the record for "most interceptions in a single game". John Carbray, President of the Fresno Diamond Group, and Bob Leoni, the Mayor's long-time friend, recalled some of Mayor Autry's words of wisdom, such as "happy as a warm cow in cool mud". Additional darts were thrown by Matt Otstot, TV Personality, KSEE Ch24, and Charlee Simons, Radio Personality, Alice 102.7, although Mayor Autry got in a few uproarious digs of his own in response.

The roasters emphasized Mayor Autry's positive vision for the future of the San Joaquin Valley. Mayor Autry himself pointed out that Fresno has much to be proud of and no reason to consider itself a second class city. He explained the importance of having quality colleges to attract and keep capable people in the Valley. He indicated that SJCL's goal of improving its educational programs with the ultimate intent of attaining national accreditation is exactly the kind of high aspirations he sees in people throughout the Valley.

San Joaquin College of Law is grateful to everyone who participated in the Spring Banquet for making it an all-around successful event.



SJCL's roastee for the evening **Fresno Mayor Alan Autry** with wife **Kim**



Hon. Lawrence O'Neill and Roaster **Pat Hill**, *Fresno State Coach*



Roaster **Matt Otstot**, *TV Personality, KSEE Ch24*



Doug Noll, *SJCL Board Chair*, with wife **Jan**



Elizabeth O'Neill, *SJCL Board Member* and **Joyce Morodomi**, *SJCL Staff*



Roaster **Charlee Simons**, *Radio Personality, Alice 102.7*



Auctioneer **John Wallace**



Roaster **Bob Leoni** and Master of Ceremonies **Gordon Park**



Cadee Ohanesian (Law '02), *SBA President*, with Professors of The Year **Rich Cartier**, **Larry Artenian**, and **Rene Sample**



Ross Borba, *SJCL Board Member*, with wife **Linda**



Tom Chacon, *SJCL Staff*; **Brenda Linder** (Law '04); **Alice Binger** (Law '05); and **Humphrey Valero** (Law '04)



Roaster **John Carbray**, *Diamond Group President*

Alumni Profiles

The year 2002 is the Twentieth Anniversary of the graduation of the Class of 1982 and the Tenth Anniversary of the Class of 1992. Throughout the year, we will be letting you know “where they are now.”

1992

Mark Blum

During law school Mark clerked for Smurr, Henry & Gelegan and joined the firm as an associate upon graduation and admission to the bar. In 1994, that firm divided according to practice groups and Mark became a partner with the new firm of Jerry E. Henry, Inc. In 1998, the firm changed its name to Henry, Logoluso & Blum, continuing to practice in the areas of business and probate litigation, business formation, estate planning and public agency law. Mark's practice primarily involves public agency representation. The firm serves as legal counsel for the cities of Kerman and San Joaquin, as well as several local water agencies. Mark has served for many years on Fresno County Law Library's Book Committee, recommending acquisitions to the Library's Trustees.

Mark and his wife, Betsy, have two children and, in homage to Jan Pearson, feed four cats (nobody owns cats) and at least one fox with a taste for cat food. Betsy teaches world history and runs the library/learning media center at Yosemite High School in Oakhurst. Their son attends California State University, Fresno and their daughter is a high school freshman. The whole family enjoys downhill skiing, but only the parents appreciate cross-country skiing. Mark and Betsy serve on Yosemite's volunteer Nordic ski patrol and are active members of the Yosemite Winter Club.

The first year of law school is the most vivid for Mark. Then things become a blur – Not surprising since Mark served as the Articles Editor for the first volume of the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* and participated in national moot court competitions, as well as working and going to school. He does, however, remember agonizing over Doug Noll's one-page papers in Remedies, but claims to remember it only because it can't possibly have been ten years ago.

Leah Cole

Since graduating from SJCL, Leah has worked with the firm now known as Cole, Fisher, Bosquez-Flores, Cole, and O'Keefe, serving as the managing partner for the last two years. Her legal work consists of approximately 85% Workers Compensation and 15% Social Security Disability representation. She is certified by the State Bar of California as a Specialist in Workers' Compensation. She served for five years on the statewide Board of Governors for the California Applicants' Association.

Leah has two children. Her daughter, Rachel Gonzalez, is about to make a decision on the college where she will study communications or pre-law. Her son, Mario Gonzalez, is finishing his freshman year at San Joaquin Memorial High School. He is active in drama and plays electric guitar. Travel has been a focus of their family time in recent months with excursions to Maui, New Orleans, and Washington, D.C.

Leah remembers law school as “a ton of fun”. She thoroughly enjoyed it and made a lot of wonderful friends. Many of her classmates, she notes, have ended up working with or against each other in the Workers' Compensation field.

Laural Gerbrandt

Upon graduation, Laural worked as a volunteer for the Public Defender's office at Juvenile Hall. In March of 1994, she became law clerk to the Senior District Judge of the United States District Court in Fresno. She now serves as Death Penalty Staff Attorney working with all the District Court judges on death penalty appeals.

Laural says that she thoroughly enjoys her job. Its challenging and with the Ninth Circuit always changing the law, every day is different. She says its wonderful to work with Judge Wanger after surviving his first year Civil Procedure class.

All of Laural's family lives in the Fresno area. She enjoys seeing her parents, grandparents, brother, and his six children.

Laural is active at the New Covenant Community Church and is a Past President of the San Joaquin College of Law Alumni Association.

Laural remembers making wonderful friends in law school. It was a delight, she says, to be involved in an intellectual pursuit. She remembers arguing at length about pending cases with her classmates.

Staff

Janice L. Pearson, Dean; **Sally A. Perring**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; **Tom Chacon**, Accounting Assistant; **Ken Coyle**, M.I.S. Director; **Mark Enns**, Director of Recruitment & Public Relations; **Maureen Hayes**, Assistant to Chief Financial Officer; **Lonzetta Hightower**, Receptionist; **Joan Lassley**, Law Program Coordinator / Facilities Administrator; **Pamela Matthews**, Assistant Director of Development; **Kathryn McTigue-Floyd**, Library Director; **Joyce Morodomi**, Admissions Director / Registrar; **Tara Crabtree**, Assistant Librarian; **Pam Ramirez**, Director, Paralegal Program / Director, Placement Services; **Rick Rodriguez**, Maintenance Supervisor; **Patricia Smith**, MCLE Coordinator; **Jill Waller-Randles**, Chief Financial Officer; **Gwen Watt**, Financial Aid Director

Barbara Greaver

Barbara's first year as an attorney was spent in a Visalia law firm specializing in family law and insurance defense. Then she moved to the Tulare County District Attorney's office where she spent 5 years prosecuting consumer fraud cases. Currently, Barbara is in charge of the Appeals and Writs section. She wrote the People's briefs in two cases which resulted in published opinions by the Fifth District Court of Appeal: *People v. Superior Court (Almaraz)*(2001) 89 Cal.App.4th 1353 [107 Cal.Rptr. 903] and *People v. Superior Court (Maloy)*(2001) 91 Cal.App.4th 391 [109 Cal.Rptr. 987]. Barbara is a member of the Tulare County Bar Association.

Barbara and her husband, Bill, celebrated 21 years of marriage on April 12, 2002. They have two daughters. Kristi is graduating from high school this year and considering joining the Coast Guard. Melanie will be completing the 8th grade. As a family, they love movies, snow skiing, and traveling throughout California. Barbara serves on the school board of the Liberty Elementary School District and is President of the Mt. Whitney High School PTA.

The camaraderie of her classmates is what Barbara remembers about law school. Many of them were returning to school after being in the workforce and had a great deal in common. They helped each other get through.

Jonathon Jones

Jonathon continued his contracting business as well as practicing law for four years after he graduated from law school. He then worked with Mullen & Filippi for two years. In May of 1998, he joined Adelson, Testan & Brundo, a Workers' Compensation defense firm. The firm has 11 offices statewide with 8 attorneys in Fresno. Jonathon describes this as the best of all possible worlds because it is a legal practice smorgasbord. He is frequently in court; the lawyers that practice in the area interact with each other regularly and maintain a high level of professionalism.

Jonathon notes that his wife, Sheridan, has always been supportive during their 30 years of marriage. They have two sons, 26 and 22, and a grandson who is a delight to both of them. Jonathon is very active in the choir at People's Church. This summer their choir will be in San Diego performing as the backup choir for soloists from the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir.

Both Jonathon and his wife thought the last year of law school was the most difficult. They thought it would never be over. He continued to find enjoyment in his love for reading and attending class. Jonathon has taken concepts he learned law school and related them to truths from scripture for a class he taught at People's Church.

Robert Piacente

From graduation through October 1999, Rob worked with Stroup & deGoede representing public school and community college districts. In November 1999, he joined Lozano Smith continuing in the field of education law but emphasizing personnel and student issues.

Rob's wife, Alice, works for an orthopedic surgeon and is about to enter the dental hygienist program at Fresno City College. They have two children. Their son is a sophomore in high school whose greatest interest is skateboarding. Their daughter is six. Their leisure time is spent driving the kids all over town and camping.

Rob remembers law school as very difficult. It flew by since he was working all day and at school every night.

Carol Moses

Carol first worked as an associate with Michele Belanger-McNair. In mid-1998, she opened her own practice, later associating with fellow graduates, Trudi Manfredo (1993) and Dorothy Carroll (1993). Her practice focusses on criminal defense and (because she enjoyed Torts so much - ha ha) plaintiff's personal injury cases. Carol is a member of the Consumer Attorneys of California, Fresno County Women Lawyers, and California

Women Lawyers. She is a member of the Criminal Justice A Panel.

Carol runs marathons and participates in LONG DISTANCE hikes. Each summer for the last ten years, she and Trudi have hiked the 36 miles from Tuolumne Meadow to Devil's Postpile in a single day - roughly 14 hours. This September they plan to climb Mt. Whitney in a day.

Carol says she wishes she could go to law school again now because she would do much better. She recommends that aspiring law students get some experience in the field - as a paralegal or secretary - before attending law school so that they have a better understanding of the process from the outset.

1981 John Joyce

(Omitted from last year)

John worked as a law clerk at Fresno County Legal Services while in law school. Upon graduation, he worked in the Fresno County Public Defender's office for five years. He then served as a prosecutor for the State Department of Human Resources, pursuing complaints against certified child care providers. For the last 12 years he has been in private practice with offices in Fresno and Sherman Oaks. His practice consists principally of criminal defense and civil trials.

John and his wife, Eileen, have three grown children. One is a second year law student at Southwestern School of Law. John and Eileen travel to Europe each year, generally to Rome or Paris. This next summer they have a major excursion planned to Africa.

As to law school, John just remembers the pain of the first year. There were 43 students in his first year class. Eighteen advanced to the second year and eleven graduated. He remembers Judge Caeton's Criminal Law class as fascinating and extremely challenging. He remembers Dean Bailey, Norman Fletcher, and Oliver Wanger.



Law Graduation

2002

June 1, 2002

William Saroyan Theatre
Fresno, California
3:00PM

For More Information Call Pat at 559/323-2100

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Bookstore

The Bookstore also has a complete listing of the books it carries on SJCL's website at www.sjcl.edu/bookstore.html

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: Mark Enns, SJCL, 901 5th Street, Clovis, California 93612.

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