

Winter 2002

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SJCL Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

Pamela Ramirez takes a bow

Pamela Ramirez is leaving the law school in January to move to San Francisco to be closer to her children and pursue new opportunities.

Pamela Ramirez, Director of the SJCL Paralegal Program and Placement Director, joined the law school as Administrative Assistant to the Dean in July of 1984. At that time, the law school had a full-time staff of four, so being AA meant doing everything and anything that needed to be done from admissions to preparing meals for the Faculty Committee. In August of 1985, Pam formally became Director of the Paralegal Program.

Pam has been the heart, soul, and backbone of the Paralegal Program. She has nurtured it through several major curriculum overhauls designed to keep the education current and functional. She has shepherded the program through faculty resignations and hires, facility moves, and recurrent accreditation visits.

Pam has helped to place hundreds of law and paralegal

students and graduates throughout the San Joaquin Valley. She has held resume and interviewing workshops for students, painted walls, organized graduations, lent a sympathetic ear to many a personal crisis, and done a thousand other things.

Pam's departure is a great loss to SJCL and her many, many friends in the Fresno area. We all wish her absolutely the best!

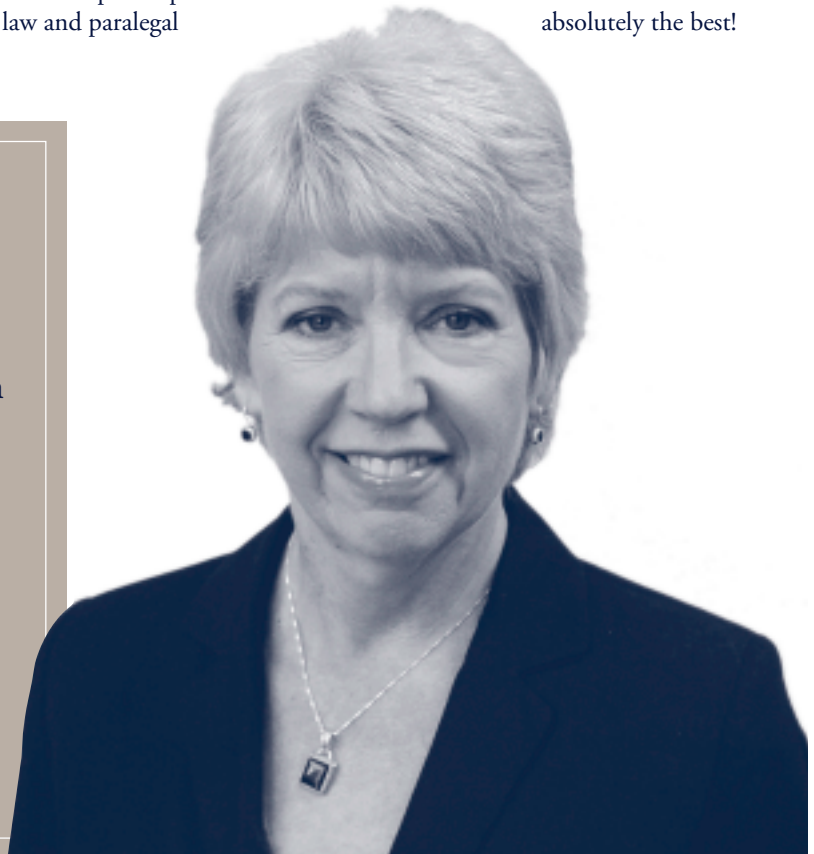
Please join us at a reception to celebrate Pamela's many accomplishments

Wine & Cheese Reception for Pamela Ramirez

Friday, January 17, 2003
5:00 to 8:00PM
Ceremony at 6:30PM

San Joaquin College of Law
901 5th Street
Clovis, CA 93612

R.S.V.P. (559) 323-2100
by Monday, January 13, 2003



SJCL Alumni help spread holiday cheer

On the evening of December 12, SJCL Alumni hosted the annual holiday party for moms and children from the Marjaree Mason Center.

By **Kathy McKenna** (Law '99)

The festivities began with KMPH-TV weatherman and personality extraordinaire, Kopi Sotiropulos, greeting the guests of honor as they arrived. Freddie, the Fresno Falcons mascot, added to the fun. Moms and kids enjoyed a

received an article of clothing—from the tiniest toddler to the tallest teenager. Thanks to the generosity of Allure Salon, each mom received a large gift bag filled with hair styling products, cosmetics and other goodies.

This special event would not have been possible without the hard work and generosity of many people. SJCL Alumni Board members Melissa White, Paul Rodriguez, Patricia Harter, Kathy McKenna, Michelle West, Traci Fritzler, Linda Richardson

and Craig Fry would like to give special thanks to: SJCL Alumni James P. Witherow for his amazing generosity both this year and last; SJCL Alumni Michelle Oleksa for her generous support; Kopi Sotiropulos whose enthusiasm set the tone for a fun-filled evening; the Fresno Falcons; Carter Barnes of Sysco Food Services; the

ladies of Allure Salon; Joan Lassley whose tireless efforts, as usual, helped pull it all together; Clovis Memorial District for allowing us to use their kitchen facilities; Brittany Scott; alumni board member-elect Kim Mayhew; and, of course, Santa!



Kopi Sotiropulos, KMPH-TV Weatherman, helps Santa hand out gifts to children from the Marjoree Mason Center.

delicious deli-style dinner of cold cuts, potato salad, chips, veggies and brownies, provided through a generous donation from Sysco Food Services.

After dinner, the one and only Santa Claus arrived with his helpers to hand out gifts to all the kids and their moms. The children received toys, crafts sets, accessories and gift certificates, and each child also



Santa's little helpers (L-R) **Melissa White** (Law '96) and **Traci Fritzler** (Law '97)



(L-R) **Kim Mayhew** (Law '98), **Kathy McKenna** (Law '99), Fresno Falcons Mascot Freddie Falcon and **Michelle West** (Law '95)



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Events around the valley



San Joaquin College of Law congratulates the following graduates on passing the July 2002 California State Bar Examination:
Front Row (L-R): **Faith Potter**, **Kariann Arndt**, **Tamara Smith**, **Trisha Beckstead**, **Brent Richardson**, **Erin Rhames**, **Kim Madayag**, and **Trina Root**
Back Row (L-R): **Darin Powell**, **Laura Walls**, **Steve Koch**, **Jarrett Cline**, **Ken Jorgensen**, and **Joseph Arnold**
Not Pictured: **Ann Bennett**, **Gina Fazio**, and **Suzanne Golden**



(L) **Frank Nunes** (Law '94) and
(R) **Beth Stratton** present
Ed Johnson (Law '03) with the
George A. Hopper Scholarship.



(L-R) **Shannon Chaffin**, **Donna Cerra** (Law '06), **Marianna Chaffin** (Law '06),
Dianna Setoodeh (Law '01), SJCL Dean **Jan Pearson**, and **Laura Walls** (Law '02)
attended the 2002 Pauline Davis Hanson Dinner. At the dinner Fresno County
Women Lawyers presented the annual Hanson award to Patience Milrod, a civil
rights, employment, and environmental attorney. This event honors Pauline Davis
Hanson who was the first woman to serve on the Fifth District Court of Appeal and
was a great mentor to women lawyers.

Full-Time Faculty

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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.”

1982

Gary Dyer

Gary spent his first 2 ½ years as a lawyer with the Small Business Administration, including one year as a Special Assistant United States Attorney for that agency. The next two years were in private practice with Glen Gates and Keith Lusk, followed by two years with Dan Harralson. Gary has worked for the Department of Justice in various United States Trustee Offices for the last 14 years - in Fresno from 1988 - 1994, Riverside from 1994 - 2002, and now in Spokane, Washington. As a Trial Attorney, he handles litigation in commercial liquidations and reorganizations and appeals to the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel.

Having just moved to Spokane, Gary, his wife, Alison, and their two sons, Jonathan and Wesley, are adjusting to the 40 degree change in weather. His sons are anxiously awaiting the first snowfall. They are enjoying exploring their new environment — hiking, visiting nearby Idaho resorts, and getting involved in local social justice organizations.

The first thing Gary recalled about law school was his study group - Ken Wagner, Catherine Benko, Dan Harralson, Peter Wasemiller, and Carlos Guzman. He recalled studying for finals in a condo at Huntington Lake and the raccoon visits. He remembers students in the upper classes being readily helpful to him as

a first year student: Randy Penner, in particular, was always there and would answer any question. Gary remembers Oliver Wanger oscillating between the podium and the side of the podium and fiddling with his suit buttons while being totally versed in the nuances of procedure.

Gary remembers that Judge Caeton called on him almost every night. (Other class members say this was because Dyer was an easy name to pronounce.) He remembers Judge Caeton being as tough in the classroom as he was in the courtroom, but outside the classroom, he was always willing to help.

Thom Snyder

Upon graduation, Thom worked with McInturff & Behrens. Two years later, the firm became McInturff, Behrens, & Snyder. After 11 years, it transformed to Behrens, Snyder & Romaine and one year later to Behrens & Snyder. Currently, the Law Offices of Thom Snyder conducts a general practice, 60% of which is criminal defense. Thom very enthusiastically describes himself as litigation-oriented.

Thom worked in education administration before attending law school. He has a Masters Degree in Educational Administration. Thom put the combined law and education training to good use teaching in the Paralegal Program for five years at College of the Sequoias. Thom is currently the Chairperson of the Board of Directors

of the Kings County YMCA. From 1987 - 1992, he served on the Board of the Central Valley Regional Center, including two years as President. He was also the Board Member Chair of ARCA, the umbrella agency for all the regional centers in California.

Thom has two sons. Chad, 23, attended West Point. He holds two B.A.'s in History and Criminology and is currently working on his Masters Degree in Public Administration. Chad plans to enter Boalt School of Law next fall, ultimately working towards a career with the FBI. Seth, 19, is working towards a degree in computer programming.

Thom spends winter free time snowmobiling and snow camping in the High Sierra. He is a Dive Master and Assistant Scuba Diving Instructor. He plans to lead a scuba diving trip to Fiji in spring 2003.

Thom remembers that everyone in his law school class got along very well. He remembers the subtle and fun competition between himself and Deborah Byron for the top spot in the class. Thom remembers the Spring Fling at Crossland's Barn in his fourth year when some unidentified person came up behind Oliver Wanger and thoroughly mussed up his always perfect hair. He remembers everyone being shocked by their grades on the first-year midterms. He remembers the study group eating authentic Mexican food at Carlos Guzman's house. When a second year student he remembers

Staff

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being conned by David Overstreet into organizing SJCL's ten-year anniversary.

The first night of Judge Caeton's Criminal Law class, the judge reminded the students that no one should come to class unprepared. One evening, Judge Caeton called upon a student to discuss a case. The student was unprepared. The balance of the class was frantically sifting through their notes trying to find the case. The next student called upon was also unprepared and tried to play the situation as a joke. Judge Caeton slammed his book shut, threw it in his briefcase and walked out. The next week, the students tactfully pointed out that the case in question was listed for discussion on the syllabus two weeks in the future.

1992 Frances Jean Bourn

Jean Bourn opened her own practice immediately upon admission to the bar. She says her work almost always involves a child somehow, generally a child not being treated quite as it should be. She handles adoptions, guardianships, CPS hearings, and criminal cases, as well as the occasional personal injury matter.

Jean and her Deputy Sheriff husband, Bob, have three children and four grandchildren, all living in the immediate area. Jean and Bob live on 20 acres in the foothills with horses, a donkey, dogs, cats, and other assorted wildlife. In January, they are traveling to Germany for their son's wedding.

Jean remembers law school as a rather pleasant experience. She has always liked going to school but it just seemed like at some point she had to stop collecting degrees.

James Dubbels

For the first year and a half of his legal career, Jim worked with the Law Offices of Joseph Igoa. He then worked with Javier Alabart for two years. In April of 1996, Adelson, Testan & Brundo approached him about opening a branch office in Fresno. This made Jim the seventh attorney the firm had hired and the opening of their fourth office. Two years later, Jim became a partner. He is now the Managing Partner of the Fresno Office which has ten attorneys. The firm as a whole now has 75

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attorneys and 12 offices. Their practice consists largely of Workers Compensation defense, along with some civil litigation, especially labor and employment problems. Jim says it is an exciting, innovative place to work that is growing like mad.

Jim has found that San Joaquin College of Law has been a fertile source for excellent attorneys. Associates in his office include Jonathan Jones (Law '92), Nancy Aten (Law '90), David Tew (Law '01), and Debra Mosley (Law '00). He also has frequent contact with many classmates in this area of law practice.

Jim recently celebrated his 20th Anniversary with his wife, Linda, who is a second grade teacher at Wolters Elementary School. They have one son, Denton, who is a junior at Bullard High School. Jim has two older sons, Andy and Brad. Andy is an electrical engineering student at Fresno State. Brad is a professor at Iowa State University where he works in molecular gene cloning, searching for a cure for tuberculosis. Jim's big leisure time activity is working on their house in Old Fig Garden.

Jim remembers most the intense educational experience of law school, especially the first semester. His experience in pharmacy school did not prepare him for law school. He remembers the bar examination as the most grueling thing he had ever done in his life. "But the education was great and life is wonderful!" he says.

Hal Farley

Hal worked for Greg Morris & Associates for a year after graduation, then for a little more than another year with Tom Villareal. In July of 1995, Hal and Ka'Ren Ketendjian opened Farley and Ketendjian. Hal handles criminal cases throughout the

Valley, along with some personal injury work. Over the last year, Hal has also devoted a significant amount of time serving on the Madera County Grand Jury.

On his birthday this year, July 20th, Hal married Marie. Their family now consists of the two of them, Hal's 16 year-old son, David, and Marie's 10 year-old daughter, Jenise. Hal loves to spend a weekend with his son playing computer fantasy games and eating frozen pizza. Another big event this year was Hal's month-long trip to Ireland and Scotland, searching for the McIntosh clan roots. Hal was particularly struck by the presence of whiskey everywhere in Scotland. When he asked people what the legal blood alcohol level was in Scotland, no one could tell him!

Hal remembers with pleasure siccing his young son on Justice Ardaiz. He remembers the rowdy arguments he and Ka'Ren would have about the law; many people joined their study group for only a single session because of the vehemence of these "discussions". Hal also remembers that Ka'Ren beat him in their cumulative GPA's by .05 of a point. Hal enjoyed Torts, Evidence, Hal Bolen's sense of humor, and Sally Perring's weird Wizard of Oz essay question.

Andrew Flanigan

After graduating from law school, Andy obtained a real estate brokers license and opened a real estate loan company which operated until he was diagnosed with melanoma four to five years ago. Andy then entered an experimental bio-chemo therapy at John Wayne Cancer Institute in Santa Monica and we are pleased to report that he has now been cancer-free for over a year!

Andy and his wife continue to operate Vonda's. They are moving the shop from Fig Garden to Riverpark in January. Andy and his neighbor have also recently enjoyed raising a

pumpkin patch at their homes east of Clovis and opening it to pre-schoolers around Halloween time. Andy's son, Philip Flanigan, Esq., has moved back to the Fresno area and opened his own practice.

As to law school, Andy remembers his study group. He, Stan Surabian, and Scott VanWagenen still get together every couple of weeks for lunch.

Jere Mealer

Throughout his last three years of law school, Jere clerked for Thomas E. Campagne & Associates, then joined the firm as an associate for one year. One year working with Tom Giovacchini and three years working with Joseph Igoa followed. In November of 1997, Jere joined Mullen & Fillipi doing exclusively workers compensation defense cases.

Jere and his wife, Nancy, have one son, Matt, who was born during Jere's second year of law school and is now in the seventh grade. The family also includes Murphy, the Golden Retriever, and Kobe, the Persian cat. Jere still dabbles in music, but he and Matt have a PASSION for golf, so it occupies most of their free time.

As to law school, Jere remembers getting up at 4:30 a.m. each morning to study for three hours before going to work, then studying all weekend. He remembers the camaraderie of his class; they were all like family. Law school study was bad enough, but Jere says studying for the Bar examination was hell. He was so glad he never had to do it again.

William Seymour

After graduating from law school, Bill continued to write for *The Fresno Bee* until 1996. At that point he assumed Charles Johnson's practice in Lemoore when Judge Johnson was appointed to the bench. Bill now operates offices in Lemoore and Visalia handling cases in Fresno, Kings, and Tulare Counties.

He is the only attorney in Lemoore and, accordingly, has a widely divergent practice. Most of his work focusses on estate planning and trust and probate litigation, although he does some criminal work.

Bill and his wife, Bonnie, have two grown children. Their daughter is a first-year student at McGeorge School of Law and their son is a Tulare County police officer. Bill is active in many community organizations, but my impression was he is most proud of the work he has done with Lemoore High School's academic decathlon team. They are perennial statewide winners. He and his wife also enjoy trips to the California coast.

Bill remembers the long commutes back and forth to law school. He often sees his classmates because of handling cases in all three counties. Bill said his classmates and other San Joaquin graduates are a wonderful network of contacts for the practice of law. He feels that is one of the biggest advantages to practicing in the area where you went to school.

Currently, Bill is also getting a chuckle out of watching the new federal court facility being built. The federal courthouse (Judge Wanger's office) will perfectly block the views from the state courthouse (Judge Ardaiz's office) — an allegory on federal preemption of state law?

Stanley R. Surabian

Upon completing law school, Stan continued his affiliation with Valley Medical Center, now University Medical Center, operated by Community Medical Centers. Currently, Stan is Chief of Dental Services and Director of the Dental Residency Program. The Commission on Dental Accreditation visited UMC last year, giving the residency program three commendations. There were no recommendations, a major feat. Stan

serves periodically as an accreditation team member for the American Dental Association. This year, Stan will be assisting Dr. Dennis Kalebjian, the President of the California Dental Association, a Fresno dentist, who serves part-time as a faculty member. In this regard, Stan will serve as the CDA Chairman of the Council on Education and Professional Relations.

Stan has melded his legal and dental training in a number of articles he has written over the years in dental journals. His topics included informed consent and emergency room dental treatment protocols. He was a contributing editor and contributing author last year for an issue of the Journal of the California Dental Association focussing on hospital dentistry.

Stan and his wife, Cheryl, have three children — all grown and now all back in Fresno. They also have two young grandchildren. So everyone is expecting an exciting Christmas this year.

David J. Weiland

David opened his own practice on December 10, 1992, the day after he was admitted to the California Bar. Given his civil engineering background, he always believed that there was a niche in the local legal market for someone specializing in construction litigation. As luck would have it, his very first client was a local engineering firm that was named in a cross-complaint for negligence after suing to collect on an unpaid fee. That client is still with him today, and provided the initial contact with a professional liability insurer for whom David now provides malpractice defense for design professionals throughout Central California. In the following years, his practice grew to the point that a solo-practice was no longer feasible. As a result, on April 16, 1999, he joined the firm of Dowling, Aaron & Keeler, Inc. He is now a shareholder in the firm, head of the Business Litigation Department,

and a member of the firm's Board of Directors. His practice consists of construction litigation, specializing in design professional liability defense, business litigation, and municipal law. He is the City Attorney for the City of Mendota. He has a published decision by the Appellate Court, Fifth District, for which he thanks Presiding Justice James Ardaiz for casting at least one favorable vote. He also has appeals currently pending in the Fifth District, and in the U. S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit.

David is married to Lillian Macias Weiland (Law '02). They have one daughter, Julia, three years old and a future lawyer, and who already regularly defeats Dad in household debates. They love to spend time with family in sunny Southern California.

David is a member of the Board of Trustees of San Joaquin College of Law. He is a board member and past president of the CSUF Bulldog Foundation. He has also served on the board of Lawyers Have Heart of the American Heart Association.

David says law school was a wonderful experience - like being on vacation for four years. At the time, he was very busy with his engineering business. He left the office every afternoon and went to the law school to study and escape the real world of work. It was really a retreat for him. The time went by in the blink of an eye, as have the intervening ten years since graduation. The whole thing, including law review, was really a positive experience, during which he made new friends, many of whom are friends to this day. His advice to students and colleagues is to never look back, 'cause that's not the direction you should be going.

Seasons Greetings
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