Despite the cool weather, we had a great turnout. The event was a tremendous success, getting us closer to our goal of permanently endowing the Judy Wiseman Memorial Scholarship.

This year, there were 16 teams and three sponsors: Eagle Sponsor - Dr. Mark Wiseman, Visalia OB/GYN Medical Associations; Birdie Sponsor – The Foundation for Medical Care for Kings and Tulare County; and Birdie Sponsor - Garrett Construction.

The first place team, which included Dr. Jeff Brown, Dr. John Morin, Dr. Dan Boken and Dr. Ron Marconi of Visalia, won a foursome at Ft. Washington Golf and Country Club.

The fourth annual Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament was held at Sherwood Forest Golf and Country Club on March 11, 2006.

By Charlotte Hylton, SJCL Alumni Association President

The $10,000 hole-in-one prize went unclaimed! But closest-to-the-hole prize went to Dave Burnett, the longest drive (male) to Dustin Smith, and the longest drive (female) to Mary Turner.

Raffle ticket sales were spectacular thanks to the 12 great raffle prizes donated by Judy Rogers, Charlotte Hylton, Kathy McKenna, Kim Mayhew, Crissi Jelladian, Jewels Unlimited, Slate’s Restaurant, RSVP please, Body Wise, SJCL Alumni Assn., California Telephone Access Program, and Joan Lassley.

Thanks go to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make this event such a success: Kathy McKenna, 2006 Tournament Chair; Kim Mayhew; Charlotte Hylton; Sherrie Flynn; SJCL students Amy Guerra, Victoria Medrano and Pa Kou Cha; and Joan Lassley, who, as always, provided invaluable help and support. We would also like to thank Don and Staff at Sherwood Golf Club for their assistance in making the event run so smoothly and providing us with a beautiful venue.

Watch for next year’s event!
Spring Banquet

Chrystine Carvalho (Law ’06) with husband Chris

Kathy McKenna (Law ’99) and Kim Mayhew (Law ’98)

Errin Anderson-Woodward (Law ’07) and ’06-’07 SBA President Courtney Caron (Law ’07)

Shawn Olson (Law ’08), Sara Neufer (Law ’07), Tony Stevens (Law ’07), and Alex Martin (Law ’07)

Teresa Petty (Law ’07), Dede Agrava (Law ’07), and Marjorie Webb (Law ’07)

SBA Paralegal Representative Oliver Larrivee (Para ’06) with his date Ella

Erik Peterson (Law ’07) with wife Amanda

Leanne Kent (Law ’09) and Ivo Stimac (Law ’08)

Board of Trustees
Douglas Noll, J.D., Chair; Hon. James A. Ardaiz, Vice-Chair; John Loomis, J.D., Treasurer
Professor Larry Artenian, J.D.; Ross Borba, Jr.; Richard Caglia, J.D.; Hon. Jane Cardoza; Deborah Ann Coe, J.D.;
Carol Smittcamp Copeland; Greg Durbin, J.D.; Edward D. Fanucchi, J.D.; Traci Fritzler, J.D.;
Charlotte Hylton, Alumni Representative; Jan L. Kahn, J.D.; Elizabeth O’Neill, J.D.; Hon. Robert Oliver; Susie Osterberg;
Courtney Caron, SBA President; Wanda L. Rogers; Dennis Veeh, CPA; Richard Watters, J.D.; David Weiland, J.D.
Scholarship Recipients

Alumni Association Carolyn T. Mirviss Scholarship
Shawn Olsen

Alumni Association Judy Wiseman Memorial Scholarship
Errin Woodward

Alumni Association Spirit of SJCL
Antonio Stevens

Brown Scholarship For Women And Minorities
Kay Strohl

Delta Theta Phi Scholarship
Courtney Caron
Pa Kou Cha
Scott Jones

Family Law Scholarship
Stacie Melikian

Theodore R. Forrest Memorial Scholarship
Shannon Fell

The Founders’ Scholarship
Rachele Berglund-Bailey

James K. & Carol Sellers Herbert Scholarship
Gary Winter

George Hopper Memorial Scholarship
Jody Winter

Ernest S. Kinney Trial Lawyer Scholarship
Alexander Martin

Legal Edge Consumer Scholarship
Sengthiene Bosavanh

Leroy Long Memorial Scholarship
Chrystine Carvalho

Leon S. Peters Leadership Awards
Robert Abrams
Bianna Ellis
Stephanie Grewal
Brenda Hook
Raymond Isley
Marjorie Webb
Jody Winter

Pete P. Peters Leadership Awards
Andrew Aller
Laura Arnold
Richard Fritsch
Autumn Goodrich
William McComas

Albert Ramirez Bail Bonds Scholarship
Richard Horowitz

SJCL Student Bar Association Law Scholarships
Nick Aniotzbehere
Amy Guerra
Teresa Petty

SJCL Student Bar Association Paralegal Scholarships
Jennifer Finnegan

Woman Lawyer Scholarship
Ambra Dorsey

Full-Time Professor of the Year
Jeffery G. Purvis

Adjunct Professor of the Year
Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin

Students of the Year
First Year – Victoria Medrano
Second Year – Tony Stevens
Third Year – Myava Escamilla
Graduating – Rachele Berglund-Bailey

New Staff

Cynthia Van Doren
Director of Career Services
Cynthia graduated from SJCL in 2004 and now joins us “behind the scenes” as Director of Career Services. Cynthia most recently practiced law with Wild, Carter & Tipton as an Associate Attorney. Prior to coming to SJCL she earned a B.S. in Agricultural Business & Marketing from California Polytechnic University.

Michelle Rude
Accounting Assistant
Michelle has worked for Aerofund Financial and Interstate Oil Company. She earned an A.A. Degree from De Anza College in Cupertino, CA and a Certificate in Project Management from San Jose State University.

Debbi Chacon
Receptionist
If you have called SJCL you may have already noticed that Debbi provides excellent customer service and we’re excited that she has joined our staff. She previously worked at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church as an Administrative Assistant.

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

Adjunct Faculty
**Alumni Profiles**

*SJCL congratulates our alumni celebrating 10, 20 and 30-year anniversaries in 2006. Thanks to all for reading and participating.*

– Joan Lasley, Alumni Liaison

### 1976

#### Hon. Gary S. Austin

Judge Austin was the Student Association President in 1976 at SJCL. After graduation he first worked as a law clerk for the District Court for the Eastern District of California and then as Deputy District Attorney. He became a Municipal Court judge in 1986. In 1988, he joined the Superior Court, where he has presided over criminal cases, including death penalty cases, served as Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division and has presided over civil and family law matters.

Judge Austin enjoys tennis and snow skiing when time permits. He is a member of the California Judges Association, a former member of the Board of Trustees for the County of Fresno Law Library, and a former member of both the Fresno County Bar Association and the California State Bar Association. Judge Austin serves as a Fresno County Mock Trial judge.

During his years at SJCL, Judge Austin most enjoyed the Thursday night gatherings at The Outpost after class. He also has fond memories of his time spent working in student government while in law school.

#### Carl Brown

Carl began his legal career in the Fresno branch office of an Oakland law firm. In 1994, he formed a partnership with son-in-law, James Peel. In 2005, he withdrew from the partnership and remains with the firm in an “of counsel” capacity. He has always limited his practice to civil litigation, initially as a defense attorney and most recently, representing plaintiffs.

Carl has two adult daughters, one of whom is married to James Peel, a San Joaquin College of Law graduate. His younger daughter is working on her Masters degree in criminology. Carl and his wife, Karen, have a 19-year-old son attending college. Carl also has 4 grandchildren, including teenage twins.

Carl’s interests include flying, boating, snow skiing, and traveling with his family. Carl supports his wife with her involvement in fundraising for Valley Children’s Hospital and University High School.

Carl’s SJCL memories include Roger Vehrs’ dog sitting in the back of the classroom in the round building at the Pacific College campus, Ollie Wanger wearing suits with high water pants to class and driving various exotic black automobiles and Eric Green arriving for class one day, sporting a very impressive shiner. Carl recalls ending up with Roger Vehrs and Jim Makasian for moot court preparation and presentation, and remembers feeling like the kid picked last for the basketball game.

**Richard Fairbank**

While in law school Richard was employed by the Law Offices of DeWayne Zinkin. He was hired as an associate attorney in December of 1976 and continues as a member of the firm today. It will be 30 years this August. His practice emphasis is real property, leasing and development. He has done purely transactional law for the past 7 years.

Richard has been married to Mary for 37 years in August. Their daughter, Stephanie Spalding, is a freelance writer and former newspaper editor. Her articles include pieces concerning her experiences while living in China for 18 months. Richard and Mary have two grandsons, 11 and 8. Stephanie and husband, Lt.Col Robert Spalding, USAF, are relocating to Washington, D.C. this summer where he will be serving in the Pentagon.

In his spare time Richard enjoys sailing, traveling, spending time with family and friends, playing the piano and guitar, reading, and cooking.

Richard served as school board president for his daughter’s private school. He is an active member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church where he has served as an usher, Men’s Club officer, and Chairman of the Parish Council.

Richard’s special SJCL memories include being as poor as a church mouse in law school. He remembers driving an old ‘65 VW to San Francisco with a classmate to take the ethics portion of the Bar Exam. The brakes went out, of all places, in the steep streets of San Francisco. He drove home to Fresno with no brakes. Doug Nelson asked Richard to take a job interview for him because he wasn’t able to make it. That interview resulted in Richard’s 30-year association with the Zinkin family. Thanks, Doug.

#### Peter Moock

After graduation, Peter went to work with his dad in Visalia at McCormick,
Moock and McCormick. They did principally transactional work for special districts and municipal contract work. Peter worked there for about 3 years. When his father passed away he decided to take a hiatus from the law and went to work for the Forest Service, where he enjoyed the outdoors. Around 1982 he went back to legal work with Kings County Legal Services until 1986. Then life took him to Maryland for a couple of years where he took that bar (something he said he would never do after the challenging California Bar). He practiced law in Maryland until 1988, when he returned home to Exeter and went to work for the County Counsel of Kings County, where he continues to practice today.

Peter is married to wife, Ronda. His daughter, Allison, is in her second year of law school at Loyola University. Peter enjoys all outdoor activities: bicycling, hunting, backpacking, fishing and skiing. Peter has also enjoyed a long association with the Exeter Lions Club.

Peter has several fond SJCL memories of the years at the then Pacific University campus. He remembers taking Jim Makasian and Doug Nelson on a cross-country skiing outing and the very colorful language that sounded through the woods. He is sure they thought the 2 foot deep powder was some sort of punishment. He also recalled the time he and Doug Nelson were riding their bikes to school when they came across a rummage sale at the fairgrounds. Soon they realized that all the stuff they bought would not fit on their bikes so they had to go for a car to get their purchases home. He also realized later in the week that one of the suits he bought for $2 had actually belonged to Oliver Wanger. (This he found out when Professor Wanger wanted to know how he came by his suit and wanted it back.). Peter also recalls a favorite night when he, Jim Makasian and Doug Nelson spent an evening at the Outpost to watch the NBA championships and the Warriors won it that year. What a great night it was for Jim who was a huge Warriors fan.

1986
Kevin Gunner
Kevin is a solo practitioner who specializes in estate and tax planning with a special focus on elder law.

Kevin and his wife, Valerie, have been married 24 years and they have 2 beautiful daughters.

In April 2006, Kevin was honored as Pro-Bono Attorney of the Month. He also gets a Gold Star on his forehead from his youngest daughter for “being a good Dad.”

Kevin is interested in tennis, martial arts, poker, watching his daughters in dance competitions, and community involvement. He is a board member of the Alzheimer’s Foundation of Central California and the Valley Caregiver Resource Center. He is Co-Chancellor for St. James Episcopal/Anglican Cathedral.

When asked about his memories of SJCL, he stated “witnessing the brutality of the ‘Socratic’ method on the unprepared a’la Judge Wanger and Judge Caeton (somehow Terry Wapner survived to be a great criminal attorney); trudging through rain and fog over the cinderblock fence to get to the old doughnut shoppe at break time (many cases solved during that 10 minute (i.e. 30 minute) break); enduring the early days of LEXIS research; Bill Brewer’s De’Lorean (Back to the Future #2 1/2); a few beers at the Hof Brau after finals, resulting in the Liberal vs. Conservatives debates (Hazen vs. Everybody Else). Those were the best of times. Thanks SJCL for making it possible.”

Mary McCarthy
Mary worked for the Tulare County District Attorney’s Office for two years after graduation. She then worked about 12 years as a teacher while her son was in elementary school. Mary retired with a total of 26 years in the field of education in June 2004. While teaching, Mary had the opportunity to work as a JAG Officer with the California Army National Guard. After she and husband, John, built their new home in McKinleyville, she started working for the Humboldt County District Attorney’s Office in January 2006. She enjoys the trial work very much. Mary just completed a felony burglary case.

Mary has been married to John McCarthy for 36 years. They have one son, Tom, who is a sophomore at McKinleyville High School. Tom is the first chair violist with the AR-MACK Orchestra, a combined orchestra for the Arcata and McKinleyville High Schools.

Mary is interested in music. She plays the accordion and sings at church on
On May 27, 2006 San Joaquin College of Law celebrated its Thirty-Second graduation at the William Saroyan Theatre in Fresno. SJCL was honored to have Phillip James Cline, Tulare County District Attorney and SJCL graduate, as commencement speaker. Rachele Berglund Bailey delivered the Valedictorian address.

The students graduating at the top of their class were:
- Rachele Berglund Bailey
- Marianna McAllister Robson Chaffin
- Richard Monte Horowitz

Congratulations also to:
- Brooke Heather Airey
- Andrew Michael Aller
- Jaskarn Singh Atwal
- Catarina Maria Benitez
- Timothy A. Bennett
- Bethany Raeann Berube
- Brian Gary Binkley
- Sengthiene Bosavanh
- Chrystine Denise Carvalho
- Eric Valentin Castellón
- Pa Kou Cha
- Amanda J. Dayton
- John Edward Dyer
- Janine Alexis Eldred
- Christopher Alan Engelskirger
- Cynthia Espinosa
- Jamie Kevin Feehan
- Agnieszka Malgorzata Gill
- Autumn Ariana Goodrich
- Vonnie Ann Griva
- Bret Grove
- James Ernest Harper
- Brenda Cantu Hook
- Kristen Michelle Jennings
- Shannon Lee Maskal
- Elizabeth Ann McGee
- Tracy Lynn Moore
- Dallas Renee Neumann
- Shannon Celeste Pell
- Daniel Hernandez Prado, Jr.
- Joseph Ryan Pressutti
- Irene Aurora Ramirez
- Serita Alona Rios
- Mark Alan Roy
- Richard Anthony Ruiz
- Padrik S. Ryan
- Kara Dawn Schacher
- Yan Shrayberman
- Shonda Marie Siler
- Peggy S. Silva
- Michael Gregory Slater
- Jeremy Donnelly Snell
- Todd Banning Stermer
- Michelle Greer Tarbox
- John F. Tully, III
- Henry Charles Tyra, III

SJCL Professors of Law Hon. Jonathan Conklin and Stanley Boone, gave everyone a fond farewell.
Many graduates emphasized how important the support of family and friends was to their success in law school.
Sundays. She played the accordion for about 10 years for church in Visalia.

Mary is on the Board of Directors for the McKinleyville Kiwanis and does community volunteer work with Kiwanis.

Mary has wonderful memories of her Torts teacher, Jan Pearson. She says Jan was very inspirational for her. Mary also remembers Civil Procedure class with the now Honorable Oliver Wanger. He was an excellent teacher who taught us all to use our Black's Law Dictionary if we didn't know what words, such as trover, in cases meant. Justice Ardaiz was her favorite teacher; because of him, she has been able to use evidence to be a better prosecutor. But most of all, she remembers how close their class became over the four year period. She has fond memories of her classmates who worked very hard to get the best legal education from the best law school, San Joaquin College of Law.

**1996**

Lori Anderson

After graduation from SJCL, Lori worked at Stephen A. Smith’s office, where she worked as a law clerk during her last year of law school. Tim Rote, who was working at the Tulare County Public Defender’s Office, called her in 1997 and told her she should apply for a position there as a Deputy Public Defender.

She began working as a Deputy Public Defender in late 1997. She loved that job, and quickly started doing misdemeanor trials. Lori was assigned to the court in Tulare, after working in several of the courtrooms in Visalia. Lori was also assigned to defend “deadbeat” dads who were arrested for failure to pay child support.

In June, 1998, Lori unfortunately moved out of California to Illinois, due to her husband’s promotion/transfer. They made the decision knowing that she would not be able to take the bar there. Chicago is a wonderful city, but after Fresno’s weather, the climate was somewhat of a shock.

For three years Lori worked as a paralegal/legal secretary in a suburb of Chicago. When the Managing Partner closed his firm and retired, she went downtown and worked at a couple of small law firms as the office manager. Then in July 2004 she started working at a firm, that is house counsel for Farmers Insurance. In this position, she was a combination of IT, HR, budget, and office manager. She liked the structure of a corporate setting, rather than private attorneys who tend to run their offices however they choose, regardless of HR guidelines!

Late last year she joined a technology team with Farmers to design and implement a new software Case Management system that is being introduced in all Farmers’ legal offices in the country. Since December, she has traveled to Nashville, Detroit, Columbus, Portland, and 6 other cities to train the users in those offices. Thanks to her laptop, e-mail, and cell phone, she has been able to continue performing the duties of office manager while training out of state.

Lori misses practicing law, but her current job is fun and fulfilling. She and her husband don’t have plans to move back to California, but Farmers has lots of legal offices there, so you never know...

**Karen Buck**

Upon graduation Karen worked for the Honorable Dennis L. Beck at the U.S. District Court for 7 years. She currently is CFO for HealthConnect Systems, an internet provider of small group health software applications.

Karen and husband, Mahlon, have 4 children. They also enjoy 2 grandchildren with 1 more on the way.

Karen and Mahlon enjoy travel, travel, travel! Since graduating from law school, they have visited 45 countries and 6 continents. They are adding 4 more to the list this summer (Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia & South Africa). There are a total of 77 countries they want to visit so are well on their way! Next year they are planning on making it to the 7th continent (Antarctica -- burrrr). A couple of years ago they purchased a condo in SF which they love to visit (especially in the summer).

During her non-travel time Karen has been a great supporter of the SJCL Moot Court competition, serving as a judge every year. She is also busy with church activities.

Best law school moment: When Peter Pacheco stood up in Evidence and challenged the instructor’s assertion (during the OJ Simpson trial) that there is no police bias in South Central LA and watching the instructor back down. Other memories: jumping the wall and going to the donut shop at break, pie night with Nina Krauth, Elaine Yama, Amy Lopez, Beth Kams, and others; studying with Nina, Elaine, Amy and Ofra Pleban; being in Oliver Wanger’s last Civil Procedure class and going home after the first night of class and telling her husband “this is what law school is all about;” not being able to obtain her bar results at the allotted hour (the first time the bar posted them online) and having to go to Ofra’s house to use her computer but waiting until Ofra and her family left the house before she retrieved them in case she did not pass (She did pass thank goodness). She still feels an incredible closeness to her law school classmates even after 10 years and a deep appreciation for the existence of SJCL.

**Bob Hirth**

After passing the bar Bob went into solo practice. After several years of struggle, he joined John Barker and Associates. He advanced to trial team leader and Assistant Chief Defense Attorney in the Fresno Office. In 2004 he was promoted to Chief Defense Attorney in the Madera Alternate Defense Office. In addition to trying to keep track of 7 attorneys in the office,
2005-'06 Donors
August 1, 2005 - June 20, 2006

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

Gifts of $25,000 or more
Ross Borba, Jr.
Leon S. Peters Foundation

Gifts of $10,000 – 24,999
Karen Buck ('96)
Dianna R. Senezdeh ('01)
DeWayne & Nick Zinkin ('01)

Gifts of $5,000 – 9,999
Darryl Freedman ('93)
The Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation
Pete P. Peters Foundation
Alpert Ramirez ('96)
Andrew Sorensen ('77)
SJC Alumni Association

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Donn Furman ('93)

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Sofian Dawood ('04)
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Mary Lane ('88)
Yoriko Ishikawa McCalley ('98)
Pamela McFarland ('85)
Anthony Mendes
Joyce Merodomi
Gregory J. Norys ('02)
Audra Oeser
Joseph O'Keefe ('96) and Cole, Fisher, Bosquez-Flores, Cole & O'Keefe
Ora Pileban ('96)
Mary K. Rau ('91)
Patrick Ricchiuti
Steven Salazar ('84)
Eric Schweitzer ('95)
Stephen Sefton ('78)
Nancy L. Smith ('80)
Tamara P. Smith ('02)
Bradley Stevens ('99)
Bill Stewart
Sharon Stull ('85)
Regina Tanner ('95)
Jennifer Walters ('04)
Howard Watkins
Sara Widener-Brightwell ('94)

Other
Chineme O. Anyadiwyu ('03)
Ann F. Bennett ('01)
Gene Bruce
Cartridge Recycling Center, Inc.
Deblit and Reye's Chacon
Doreen Cole ('96)
Kevin Cook ('99)
James Costa
Mark Callers
Al Daddino
Jack Dickey
Joby E. Dupuis ('85)
Joanna Ebner ('95)
Donald Fretz
Dan Green ('97)
Bret Grove ('06)

A Special Thank You

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our donors, who responded so wonderfully to our need to increase the number of gifts from our alumni and friends. We are pleased with your response and encourage those who have not yet made a gift to do so by July 31, 2006. We now have participation from every class but one. You have made a significant difference. Remember that participation is about whether you give – not about how much you give.

Sincerely,
Joan Lassley & Kasi Welte
Annual Fund Directors

Class Participation
August 1, 2005 - June 20, 2006

Top 5 Classes in Participation
1. 1985 31%
2. 1983 27%
3. 1979 20%
4. 1996 19%
5. 1977 19%

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3. 1993
4. 1977
5. 1985

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1. 1996
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4. 1977
5. 1985
he also carries a full case load from arraignment to sentencing.

Bob is married to Ellen (formerly DesJardins), a Westside farmer. They share two children and three grandchildren ages 17, 13 and 4. They are still married after many years working in construction all over California and Alaska, and through the travails of law school and the bar exam. Incidentally, the first day of the bar exam was on his 51st birthday. Bob and Ellen collect art and artists. Ellen started their collection before they were married; they have been adding to it since the late 1970’s. They still collect even though they have run out of wall space. They are also very involved in the Fresno Art Museum Graphics Arts Council and Ellen is active with the Council of 100.

Law school was a special time for Bob. As one of the older students, it was a pleasure to have only two stressors, studying for exams and keeping Ellen happy. It was so much less stressful than construction or unemployment. Standout memories include the 38 on his first paper in Annidele Flint’s Research and Writing Class and being one of the top 5 in Dave Camenson’s Tax Law Class. There are still days when he wishes he could be a law student for the rest of his life. Come to think of it, that is really what every good lawyer he knows is; every day is another MCLE course.

James William Lee

Upon graduation James went to work for a firm in Oakhurst, handling civil and federal cases. He was thrust into the public defender contract in Mariposa County through the firm. He had many cases against classmate Sean Quinn (Patricia Shaun Neal), who was the prosecutor. That job was very demanding and time consuming so he decided to leave the firm.

James is currently teaching English at Yosemite High School in Oakhurst and Business Law 18 at State Center Community College, Oakhurst Center. He works with local attorneys on summary judgment motions, discovery, depositions, appearances, etc. when they need someone, as well as handles some of his own cases.

James has been married to wife, Sheri, for 19 years. She owns her own insurance agency in Oakhurst. They have two sons, Jayme, 14, who is a freshman honor student and three-letter athlete at Yosemite High and Jayson, 8, who is probably the best kid on the face of the earth. God knows what he will accomplish!

In 1999, James was voted President of the Eastern Madera County Bar Association. He also is active in the Elks Lodge. He and Sheri keep very busy with their boys, watching them compete in sport events and other school activities as well as water skiing and snow skiing. They also love creating projects on their property.

James has two vivid memories from SJCL. One is studying for finals with Jeff Mendoza and Sally Orme (Moreno). It seems now that was just about all they did! The other is walking past Larry Artenian on stage at graduation, and having to call his name to wake him up!

Richard Lima

When Richard graduated he went to work for the Law Office of Henry Nunez, doing bankruptcy and civil litigation. In 1999 he decided to become a sole practitioner and opened his own office. In 2001 he moved his office to Madera, where he continues to practice in the area of bankruptcy, family law and civil litigation. He enjoys the small town community of Madera and does not mind the daily commute from Clovis.

Richard is married to Elizabeth and they have three boys. The oldest is 22 and a student at Fresno State.

The younger two boys, 17 and 15 attend Clovis High. Richard and Elizabeth stay busy with the boys’ activities but try to work in a few week-end get aways when they can.

Richard has been active in the La Raza Lawyers Association and the Fresno Hispanic Scholarship Foundation. He is helping establish the Chicanos in Law Alumni Association at Fresno State.

During law school, Richard was his oldest son’s soccer coach, so much of his time was spent on the soccer field. He did not have much time for study groups, but has fond memories of many of his classmates. He enjoys seeing them in court from time to time. While the old “insurance building” was not too pretty to look at Richard feels that the friends he made and the education he got was great.

Ofra Pleban

Ofra has been working for Central California Legal Services as a staff attorney. She specializes in consumer and employment law.

Ofra is married to, Shlomo. They have a daughter, Dafna, a student at UCLA, and a son, Ori, a senior at Bullard High.

In her spare time Ofra enjoys photography, painting, and traveling. She works with the Fresno Housing Alliance.

Ofra has many special SJCL memories. When she first applied to SJCL, she applied to the paralegal program. She had never gone to school in the United States other than studying fine art. Her primary language was Hebrew. She thought that studying in the paralegal program would help her determine if her English was proficient enough to tackle law school. After taking a short test for admission into the paralegal program, she got a phone call from Pam Ramirez, the program coordinator, who asked her
if she would consider going to law school. Ofra told her that, in fact, she was considering it but had a concern regarding the language. Pam told her that based on the results of the exam, the Dean thought that she should go to law school. Pam encouraged her to talk to the Dean. Ofra spoke to Dean Pearson who assured her that her English was fine, and encouraged her to go directly to law school without spending time and money on the paralegal program. Come to think of it, SJCL could have made a killing on her—paying both for the paralegal program and for law school. She is thankful for the opportunity she was given.

Another memory relates to her first exam in Torts. As the exam started, her glasses broke into two pieces. Unable to see anything without glasses, Ofra had the librarian take her home to get replacement glasses. When she came back, the other students were already halfway through the exam, so she was placed in a separate room and given the exam. She had no watch and there was no clock in the room. The exam had two questions. The first was a product liability case, and she set off to answer it. Just as she finished with the first question, in came Dean Pearson to announce that her time was up. It took her a few minutes to realize that the Dean meant that was it, for the whole exam. Without realizing it Ofra had used the whole time allocated for the exam, to answer only one question. When the students received the results, the Dean called her. She told Ofra that she got the maximum points for her one and only answer (well, having so much time it had to be good), but sorry to say, she got only 50. Ofra learned her lesson, and she passed the bar.
Congratulations
February Bar Passers

FRONT ROW (L-R): Jeff Bohn, Greg Miskulin, and Mark King
BACK ROW (L-R): Mary Moshrefi, Crissi Jelladian, and Mary Castro
NOT PICTURED: Hallie Ambriz, Justin Brown, and Shant Kataroyan

Kasi Welte
Kasi is the person responsible for keeping your addresses up to date. If you need to update your address information please contact Kasi at kwelte@sjcl.edu or 559/323-2100.