



Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter

Volume XXIV, Number 2

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A Traynor Triumph!

For the first time in history, San Joaquin College of Law played host to the Traynor Moot Court Competition this year.

Fourteen law schools competed, including teams from Berkeley, Hastings, McGeorge, and Davis. San Joaquin College of Law was thrilled when Justice Marvin R. Baxter announced on the morning of April 14th the SJCL team had “edged out” Loyola to take the Roger J. Traynor trophy for Best Oral Argument.

SJCL Dean Jan Pearson immediately sent out the good news, proclaiming “Congratulations to Amanda DeHart, James Mugridge, and George Vasquez as well as Coaches Judge Conklin and

Magistrate Judge Boone!! The trophy is huge – we get to keep it for a year!”

SJCL Moot Court Director Professor Jonathan Conklin, a Superior Court Judge, and Professor Stanley Boone, a US Magistrate Judge, coached the team.

While SJCL has had a number of victories at Traynor over the years, including winning the Bernard E. Witkin Award in 2002 and Best Brief in 2001, 2002 and last year, this marks the first time the Law School has won the Traynor Trophy.

But that wasn't the only win for the Law School. Professors Conklin and Boone have been trying to persuade the organizers to use Fresno as a venue for years before having success landing this year's competition. They managed to secure the Federal Courthouse as a venue, marking the first time in the 40-some year history of the event that it has ever been held in a courthouse. If the comments of the other law schools and officials from Continuing Education of Bar and the Rutter Group during this year's event weren't enough to indicate its success, the comments of Witkin

See **Traynor** Page 14



The Traynor Team poses with the Justices from the final round of the weekend competition. (L-R) Honorable **Stanley Boone**, students **George Vasquez** and **Amanda DeHart**, Honorable **Lawrence O'Neill**, Honorable **Marvin R. Baxter**, Honorable **Brad Hill**, student **James Mugridge**, and Honorable **Jonathan Conklin**.

Legal education is undergoing profound change. The State Bar Task Force on Admissions Reform recently released a proposal it hopes will require law schools to incorporate more practical skills training in the curriculum. This proposal has not been formally adopted, but the trend it reflects is interesting.

The proposal calls for each student to complete 15 semester units in practical skills courses prior to admission to the bar. This could be accomplished in courses after the first year of law studies. In the alternative, the student could complete six months of full-time employment in a Bar-approved apprenticeship. Many students would opt for the classroom component since the apprenticeship could mean delayed paid employment and such apprenticeships might not be readily available.

For SJCL students, this proposal is not as onerous as it first appears. Included in the types of courses qualifying as “practical skills” courses are advanced research and writing, practical drafting (such as contract drafting), professional responsibility, and moot court. SJCL students are already required to take 8 such units to graduate. Hence, each student would have to take 7 additional units in practical skills courses. SJCL already offers

a panoply of such classes, including a pre-trial criminal law skills class, a pre-trial civil law skills class, Criminal Trial Practice, Civil Trial Practice, Family Law Mediation, Digital Research, and Law Practice Management. Several additional classes are planned.

Ideally, the Task Force wants more live-client experiences. Units attained in externships and law school clinics also count towards the 15 unit proposed requirement. Before the Task Force proposal was released, SJCL had already sought a waiver of Committee of Bar Examiners (COBE) regulations that limited the number of units a student could obtain in non-classroom experiences. SJCL students now can obtain up to 8 units in externships and law school clinics. These are the best experiences for training in client interviewing and problem solving.

There is a critical need for practical training, but there is a downside for COBE accredited law schools. A

COBE accredited law school like SJCL must include every bar-tested subject in its required curriculum. Add the need to provide fundamental first-year training in research and writing, and 60 of the 86 units required for graduation from SJCL are taken. With the 15 units of practical skills training, SJCL students would have only 11 units available for other electives.

Independently, COBE proposes to reduce the California bar examination to two days without reducing the number of subjects tested. In fact, Civil Procedure will be added to the Multistate Bar Examination in February of 2015. If practical skills training is truly the priority, perhaps the number of subjects on the bar ought to be re-examined.

SJCL is undergoing a comprehensive review of its curriculum. These are some of the issues with which it must grapple in that process.

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Sally Perring
Missy McKai Cartier
Joan Lassley
Joyce Morodomi
Kasi Welte

Contributing Writers

Missy McKai Cartier
Joan Lassley
Janice Pearson
Kasi Welte

Design & Production

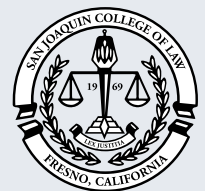
Mark Enns

Photography

Missy McKai Cartier
Kenny Gilman
Rick Rodriguez
Ronald Webb

Publication

Professional Print & Mail



San Joaquin College of Law

901 5th Street
Clovis, CA 93612
T: 559/323-2100
F: 559/323-5566
www.sjcl.edu

NALC Reaches Out to the Community

On April 12, 2013, SJCL's New American Legal Clinic (NALC) hosted an MCLE event to explore the details of the U-nonimmigrant status (U Visa).

By **Jessica Bobadilla**, Professor & NALC Legal Director

The event was cosponsored by UC Davis and the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC). It was directed towards practitioners and non-profit agencies who work with populations that may benefit from the U Visa. Professors Justin Atkinson and Jessica Smith Bobadilla were featured speakers at the MCLE. Attendance from the SJCL and broader legal community was significant and drew from non-profit representatives, officials from the Consulate of Mexico in Fresno and solo practitioners as well as SJCL students.



(L-R) **Sarah Kate Heilbrun**, HaleyNelson & Heilbrun, LLP, **Sally Kinoshita**, ILRC, **Scott Mossman**, Law Office of Scott A. Mossman, **Janie Munoz-Tafoya**, Central California Legal Services, and **Jessica Smith-Bobadilla**, SJCL New American Legal Clinic.

The U Visa is available to victims of qualifying crimes who have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of the crime, and are helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the perpetrator. The visa is valid for a period of four years during which time the applicant can live and work in the United States. After the third year in U Visa status the applicant can apply for Legal Permanent Residence in the United States. Certain qualifying family members may also be eligible to derive benefits from the U Visa applicant.

Congress created the U Visa with the passage of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (including the Battered Immigrant Women's Protection Act) in October 2000. The legislation was intended to strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking of aliens and other crimes,

while also protecting victims of crimes who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse due to the crime and are willing to help law enforcement authorities in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity. The legislation also helps law enforcement agencies to better serve victims of crimes.

Since the U Visa legislation only became a final rule in late 2007 there are many cutting edge legal topics related to this new law. The U Visa legislation is unique because many of the grounds of inadmissibility (bars to receiving immigration status in the U.S.) are relaxed or entirely waived for U Visa applicants.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA was announced by President

Obama on June 15, 2012. The DACA process gives young people who arrived in the United States under 16 years old and have resided continuously since June 15, 2007, the opportunity to receive a stay of deportation and work authorization for a period of two years which is renewable for an additional two years. Applicants must never have been convicted of a serious crime or multiple misdemeanors and must be under 31 years old as of June 15, 2012. Applicants must also have pursued an education in the United States or currently be enrolled in school.

The deferred action process is also new and there are many unknowns about this process as well. Since Congress has

Continued on Page 14

Full-Time Faculty

Justin B. Atkinson, Andreas Borgeas, Richard M. Cartier, Christine A. Goodrich, Denise M. Kerner, Janice L. Pearson, Sally A. Perring, Jeffrey G. Purvis, Peter Rooney, Jessica Smith Bobadilla

Adjunct Faculty

Hon. James Ardaiz, Lawrence Arsenian, Art Baggett, Barry Bennett, Alyson Berg, Hristo Bijev, Hal Bolen, Hon. Stanley Boone, David Camenson, Thomas Campagne, Dan Casas, Hon. Hilary Chittick, Lisa Coffman, Hon. Jonathan Conklin, Mark Cullers, Matthew Dardenne, Matthew Farmer, Peter Fashing, Mia Giacomazzi, David Guy, Jason Hamm, Jeff Hammerschmidt, Shannon Harding, Rachel Hill, Kathi Kesselman, Stefanie Krause, Michael Linden, Jeremy Lusk, Jeff Manning-Cartwright, William McLaughlin, Steven McQuillan, Mark Miller, Hilda Montoy, David Mugridge, Doug Noll, Hon. Kim Nystrom-Geist, Dan Rogers, Rose Safarian, Gary Sawyers, Michael Sheltzer, Michael Slater, Hon. Oliver Wanger, Melissa White

Co-operative Degree Program with FPU

James McCann earned a Masters and Juris Doctor through the co-operative degree program with Fresno Pacific University

James McCann completed more than just his Juris Doctorate from San Joaquin College of Law over the past four years; he simultaneously earned his Masters of Arts in Peacemaking and Conflict Studies from Fresno Pacific University. He is the most recent graduate of the Co-operative Degree Program, in which 18 units he earned towards his degrees are shared between the programs.

McCann is not the first student to take advantage of the program and it doesn't look like he'll be the last; another student is on track to graduate with the same two degrees next year.

Dean of Academic Affairs Professor Sally Perring says it offers a unique opportunity and perspective for those seeking to become problem solvers, where various

conflicts are sometimes better resolved outside of traditional litigation.

"Attorneys are trained to objectify intensely personal conflicts into rights, remedies, defenses, and obligations, where the resolutions are often money, judgments, injunctions, and declarations of rights. The Masters Degree in Peacemaking and Conflict Studies gives the attorney additional skills to analyze conflict from a humanistic perspective, looking to the core reasons for the perceived injustice and creating constructive resolutions."

McCann, who earned his BA in Philosophy from Fresno State before entering the Co-operative Degree Program, is not the only 2013 SJCL grad with ties to Fresno Pacific. Ramon Gonzales and Eric Licalsi both earned degrees in



Business at Fresno Pacific University and Dallas Thiesen had a bachelor's in Political Science from FPU before entering law school. Meanwhile, April Woods earned her bachelor's in Anthropology from Auburn University, but had also picked up a teaching credential from Fresno Pacific before beginning SJCL.

We Survived Fumigation Weekend

Things are back normal after our big fumigation weekend. The faculty, staff, and students were temporarily evicted from their classrooms, study areas, and offices for a three day weekend as the building went through a thorough fumigation on March 22nd.

An infestation of termites was caught in its early stages, helping assure that our beloved 93-year-old building will be around for decades to come!



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Spring Banquet



Warren (Law '85) & Lesa Paboojian



Dean **Janice Pearson** and
Honorable **Annette LaRue**



SBA President **Harout Bouldoukian**
(Law '14), Professor **Pete Rooney**, and
Mike Mazzoni (Law '13)

Scholarship Recipients

Abota Memorial Scholarship
Nicole Idiart

*Alumni Association
Carolyn T. Mirviss Scholarship*
Angelica Ambrose

*Alumni Association Spirit of SJCL
Scholarship*
Megan Brown

*Banadat & Paboojian Trial Advocacy
Scholarship*
Candace Clark

*Bertha & John Garabedian
Military Service Scholarship*
Ryan Petty
David Benton

CCBA Scholarships
Kristina Garabedian
Elizabeth (Nicki) Kozycki
Michael Shaddix

Clovis Soroptimist Woman's Advocate Award
Candace Campo

*Darryl B. Freedman
Bar Study Support Scholarship*
Andrew Driscoll

Delta Theta Phi Scholarships
Mandy Kendzora
Jessica McClung
Mary Raterman-Doidge

Elizabeth O'Neill Memorial Scholarship
Amanda DeHart
Ernest Kinney Trial Lawyer Scholarship
Michael Mazzoni

Florentino Jose Memorial Scholarship
Gabriel Delgado

Ibarra/Casillas LawSUIT Scholarship
Alexandria De La Fuente

Judy Wiseman Memorial Scholarship
Randy Bell

Ken Coyle Memorial Scholarship
Jonathan Carrigan-Echols
Kharazi Bar Study Support Scholarship
Craig Meredith

Legal Edge Consumer Scholarship
Lisa (Craig) Flores

*Leon S. Peters Foundation
Leadership Awards*
Andrew Antaramian
Eric LiCalsi
Victoria Hernandez-Maga
Danielle Nunes
Justin Vecchiarelli

Proctor Scholar of the Year
James Mugridge

Robert F & Kathryn S. Price Scholarship
George Vasquez

*SJCL Student Bar Association
Law Scholarship for Merit Overall*
Amanda Kjar

*SJCL Student Bar Association
Law Scholarship for Most Improved*
Jesus Martinez-Berber

*SJCL Student Bar Association
Law Scholarship for Need*
Jonas Parr

*SJCL Student Bar Association
Law Scholarship for Participation*
Keith Teague

The Founder's Scholarship
Andrew Kucera

*Theodore R. Forrest, Jr. Trial Advocacy
Memorial Scholarship*
Amanda DeHart

Woman Lawyer Scholarships
Sara Santoyo
Maria Cordova

Alumni Corner

*New grads, new day, new way...
Stay connected by joining the Alumni
Association.*

We hope that you all enjoyed the excitement of the 2013 Graduation. If you were able to join us you would have felt the excitement of our newest alumni embarking on great new futures. We wish them well.

Upcoming Events

September 12th we will be inducting our newest members to the SJCL Hall of Fame. The nomination forms are available on our website. Co-Chairs for this event are Marjorie Webb and Ron Henderson. We hope you will join us at the Robert E. Coyle Federal Courthouse.

October 12th we will be hosting the SJCL Senior Law Day event in partnership with Central California Legal Services. This event is co-chaired by Elizabeth Waldow and Dr. David Margolin. More details coming soon.

November 9th the Alumni Association will be hosting Got MCLE. This event is co-chaired by Nitza Coleman and Roger Wilson. This annual event provides a relaxed learning atmosphere where our local judges and attorneys share relevant legal information. The event takes place on a Saturday morning and a continental breakfast is provided. The event is free to alumni association members so make sure you join today if you have not had the opportunity to do so yet.

In **December** we will again be hosting the moms and children of the Marjaree Mason Center for a visit with Santa. They each receive gifts to take home. The co-chairs for this event are Brande Gustafson and Judy Rogers.

Spring of 2014 we will have the Judy Wiseman Golf Tournament. It will be held March 29th so mark your calendars. The co-chairs for that event are Marjorie Webb and Judy Rogers.

If you would like to volunteer for any of these events, have topics for presentations or would like to get involved please contact me at 559/709-1007 or your Alumni Liaison, Joan Lassley at 559/326-1463.

Have a great summer!

Judy Rogers (Law '04)
President
SJCL Alumni Association

Zekian Scholarship



Fresno County Bar Association Executive Director **Bobbie Lee** and former FCBA President, **Brian I. Tatarian**, congratulate student **Andrew Antaramian**, one of two recipients of the 2013 Zekian Scholarships.

Congratulations to SJCL student Andrew Antaramian, recipient of one of the two 2013 Zekian Scholarships! The Fresno County Bar Association, in association with the Zekian Scholarship Committee, awarded the other to Keelin Haddix, who attends Santa Clara University School of Law.

Each received a scholarship in the amount of \$2,500. The scholarship is in memory of Harry Zekian, who graduated from Clovis West High, Fresno State, and Whittier Law School before forming the firm of Beitchman and Zekian. The scholarship was created after his untimely death in a motorcycle accident in 2003 at the age of 29. The Zekian Scholarship Committee seeks high-achieving students with plans to practice locally.

Antaramian graduated from Clovis West High School and Fresno State. He expects to graduate from San Joaquin College of Law in 2015. Prior to entering law school, Andrew volunteered at Central California Legal Services in Fresno. He plans to remain in Fresno and practice in the areas of bankruptcy, real estate, civil litigation or business litigation. Andrew is currently employed by Cuttone & Associates in Fresno.

Haddix is a graduate of Clovis West High School and UC Berkeley. She expects to graduate from Santa Clara University School of Law in 2014. She has externed in the Office of the County Counsel of Santa Clara County, and has worked as a Staff Assistant in the U.S. House of Representatives, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. She would like to work in local government as a city or county counsel, in state government in the office of legislative counsel, or join a private firm.

The Zekian Scholarship Committee consists of Harry's law partner and closest friend, David Beitchman, Fresno businessmen Dror Geron and Krikor Nishanian, along with Harry's brother, Levon Zekian, and former FCBA President, Brian Tatarian.

SJCL Celebrates the 40th Graduating Class

Fifty-three graduates! A huge class! Twenty-percent hail from one of seven University of California campuses, while more than 50-percent arrived at SJCL with degrees from one of six California State University campuses.

Still others had earned degrees ranging from Fresno Pacific University and Pepperdine to the University of Leeds, U.K. and everywhere in between. Their majors ranged from Political Science and Criminology to Molecular Biology, Business, Psychology, Anthropology, and Urban Studies & Planning. While these may seem like the vital statistics for the 40th graduating class from SJCL, only one thing seemed vital to those in attendance at Commencement: With this Juris Doctorate, dreams come true, doors open, and they are welcomed into our storied alumni ranks.

Valedictorian Andy Kucera's speech ran the gambit of the same emotions a lot of people felt; gratitude to his mentor, an attorney who "always stuck up for the little guy;" great expectations, including seeing "some of your smiling faces in the SJCL Hall of Fame;" and apologies to friends and family who received scant, if not brusque, attention during his years in law school.

SJCL graduates Jacob Gelegan and Michael Shaddix each have four children and used their introductions to thank both their wives and kids for their patience. Those words made Jess Molina's niece glad she came. In reflecting on the many times her uncle was M.I.A. during the past five years, she said "I thought it was just us!"

Craig Meredith also thanked his wife, fellow SJCL grad Claire Meredith, for her support. Claire said she is "forever grateful" for her experience at SJCL because that's where she met her husband.

Other graduates offered special gratitude to their study partners. Lucia Gonzales thanked Sage Dreith, citing their apparent motto, "Ride or die!"



Keynote Speaker Federal Magistrate **Stanley Boone**



Valedictorian **Andy Kucera** with his daughter **Eva**

Keynote Speaker Federal Magistrate Stanley Boone enjoined everyone to join in the celebration of the day, but added the future should be focused on community. He urged the graduates to be good stewards in the legal community, ranging from reading to and mentoring children to taking on pro-bono work. "If you can change just one person," he said, "you've done well for the community."

SJCL Professor Andreas Borgeas continued that theme in the Benediction,

pointing out that "much is expected. Make your community better off than it is today."

Graduate Kevin Stimmel seems to be living the advice of those last two speakers. He already volunteers at both Tarpey and Mickey Cox Elementary Schools. He wraps up his introduction with hopes to "use the gifts and knowledge I have been given to do good, seek justice, and correct oppression."

Class of 2013

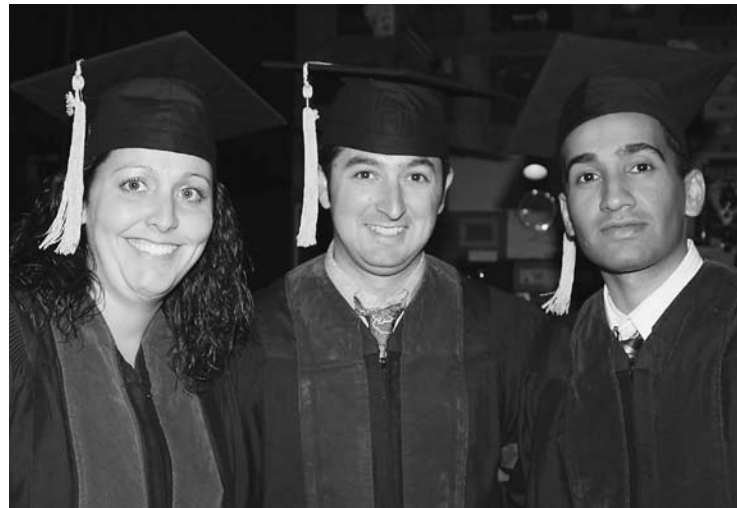
Pardeep Bains
Jennifer M. Berry
Kellie Maria Boos
Joanna Lynn Garcia Botelho
Candice Joell Campo
Michael Glyn Culver
Amanda Marie DeHart
Anthony Edward DeJager
Gabriel Anthony Delgado
Sarwinder Singh Dhanjan
Sage Marie Dreith
Andrew John Driscoll
Robert Bruce Dundas
Jessica E. H. Fierro
Lisa Renee Flores
Derek Kenneth Fogderude
Marla Diaz Garcia
Treanna Garza
Jacob Aaron Gelegan
Lucia Gonzales
Ramon Gonzales
Nicole K. Idiart
Danielle Nicole Kjar
Andrew Stephen Kucera
Carlos Roberto Leyva
Eric James LiCalsi
Faith Christine Lisle
Ann Elizabeth Litten
Angela Elizabeth Martinez
Michael Amadeo Mazzoni
James Noble McCann
Seth Gabriel Mehrten
Claire Tuttle Meredith
Craig Robert Meredith
Jess Marcelino Molina
Sengchong Moua
James Raymond Mugridge
Danielle Brooke Nunes
Jamie Michelle Palm
Charles M. Palmer
Mary Ashley Raterman-Doidge
Vicente Reyes
Tomas Joseph Ross
Adam Christoph Rushing
Michael Scott Shaddix
Karen K. Sidhu-Gill
Kevin Alan Stimmel
Rachelle Marie Taylor
Keith B. Teague
Dallas James Thiesen
George Joseph Vasquez
Allysa Catherine Wolfe
April Lauren Woods



George Vasquez, April Woods, and Tomas Ross



Seth Mehrten and Nicole Idiart



Joanna Botelho, Michael Mazzoni, and Pardeep Bains



Lisa Flores, Kellie Maria Boos, and Eric LiCalsi



Sage Dreith and Lucia Gonzales



Karen Sidhu-Gill and Danielle Nunes



Sandra & David Mugridge (Law '85) with son James (Law '13)



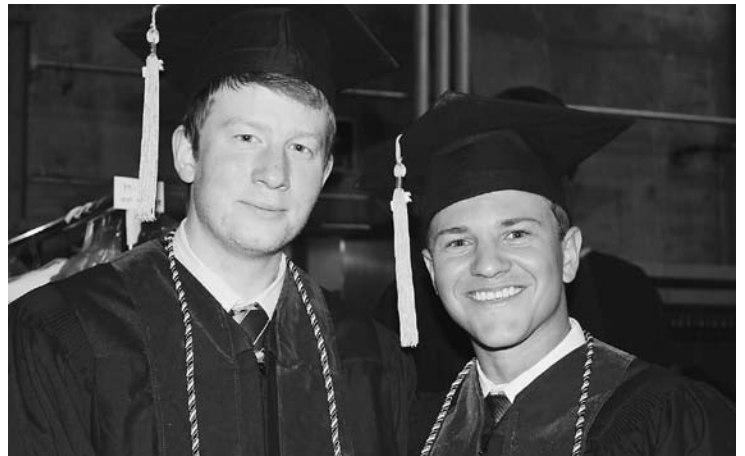
Vicente Reyes, Mary Raterman-Doidge, Charles Palmer, and Jamie Palm



Kevin Stimmel



Gabriel Delgado, Ramon Gonzales, and Michael Shaddix



Adam Rushing and Keith Teague

A Toast to our February 2013 Barpassers

It was the final seconds of the Super Bowl. Only it was the real thing. The video shows 2012 SJCL grad Mike Brady hunched over the computer in his own private huddle. Family and close friends watch anxiously from the sidelines. Suddenly, it's six o'clock. A final keystroke serves as the kick, even though the ball has been in the air since Brady started law school in 2009. And now, it falls into his hands as he stands in the end zone. He has passed the California Bar. He straightens up well beyond his full six-foot-something height, leaping into the air, pogoing across the room, while friends and family clap, scream, laugh, cry, pogo, or all of the above.

Those hunched over Brady's cell phone as the video played at the Champagne Reception for Barpassers all had the same reaction; that's exactly what it's like. Eight other SJCL alumni joined him in that exuberant celebration following the release of the February Bar results. They include Hagop Arisian, Mark Castro, Travis Ishikawa, Nathan Nutting, Alethea Pettebone, Zach Stringham, Michelle Tostenrude, and Josh Ziessler.

Many had stories to tell of long-suffering families who stood by them through the work and stress that came before this victory dance. Hagop Arisian married one week before starting law school. His beautiful bride never got that honeymoon after Hagop was told during week one "This is law school. You cannot miss a single day."

He accompanied his wife to the delivery room with study guides in hand. Twice. He credits his new-born daughter for his bar passage after his third trip to the delivery room with notes in hand. Arisian has been clerking for attorney and alumnus Eric Schweitzer (Law '95) for the past few years. Schweitzer has a different take on why Hagop passed the bar: He was sick, so he didn't have the energy to over-think his answers.

Family concerns also weighed heavily



BACK ROW (L-R): **Hagop Arisian** and **Josh Ziessler**

MIDDLE ROW (L-R): **Mike Brady**, **Alethea Pettebone**, and **Zach Stringham**

FRONT ROW (L-R): **Michelle Tostenrude**, **Mark Castro**, and **Travis Ishikawa**

NOT PICTURED: **Nathan Nutting**

on Mark Castro's road to bar passage. He and his father own Castro and Castro Trucking where, according to their website, Mark "is in charge of all finances, regulatory and safety compliance, invoicing, dispatching, and other administrative duties." Translation? Hauling tons of cantaloupe last summer meant passing the July bar would be impossible. Mark reached his dream when he passed the February bar and is now In-House Counsel for Castro & Castro, along with opening his own firm, "Castro Law Group, PC."

Meanwhile, many of the February barpassers will be staying exactly where they are except in position and paycheck as they move to the title of "Associate Attorney." Josh Ziessler is being promoted by the Law Offices of Carl L. Brown (Law '76); Michelle Tostenrude will stay on with her husband, attorney Kevin Little; Zach Stringham joins his father's law firm as Associate Attorney; and Mike Brady becomes the eleventh SJCL attorney to join Parker Kern Nard & Wenzel, and the second to be told by the firm in the past year "You pass the bar and you're hired."

Barpasser Alethea Pettebone hopes to turn her internship with the Fresno

District Attorney's Office into the resume boost that will land that job. Travis Ishikawa also hopes his three year internship with the Public Defender's Office is a rainmaker. He had an interview slated with that same office just four days after learning he passed.

Travis' journey through law school is a testament to his courage and determination, as noted in a Fresno Bee article published last May. "Tenacious Valley Students Graduate Against Steep Odds," is a thumbnail sketch of his grit:

"Travis Ishikawa said he always has been the underdog. Born with cerebral palsy, a condition that affects motor skills and nervous system functions, Ishikawa didn't walk until he was 5. In school, he had to sit out gym class. He has chosen to become a public defender – a profession he said is full of underdogs like him. Because of his cerebral palsy, he is slower at typing papers and moving around. He walks with a limp, and said he will have to use a cane one day. The disease does not impair his intellectual abilities."

Grit and glory. And champagne. Long live the tradition of the Champagne Reception for Barpassers in the Great Hallway at San Joaquin College of Law.

Alumni Profiles

SJCL congratulates our alumni celebrating 10, 20 and 30-year anniversaries in 2013. It has been a wonderful opportunity to contact all of our alumni to write their amazing stories. Thanks to all for reading and participating.

1993

Art Baggett

Art served as a member of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors before, during, and for two years after graduating from SJCL. From 1994-1999 he had a solo law practice in Mariposa where he practiced court appointed defense work and did family, business, real property, environmental, and land use law, basically whatever walked in the door. At that time he also worked a day or so a week as a contract attorney with Anne Schneider, a water rights attorney from Sacramento. These years were a great experience, never boring and always educational.

In 1999, Art was appointed by Governor Davis to a full time position as the attorney member of the California State Water Resources Control Board. He served as the chair and was reappointed by Governor Swartznager. He served three 4-year terms. The Board is responsible for protecting, preserving and restoring water quality and for providing for its equitable use under the public trust. Art felt it was truly a privilege and honor to serve. Art conducted many water rights hearings, the most memorable and difficult of which was the long-term transfer from Imperial Irrigation District to San Diego Water Authority. It lasted 45 days and dealt with a range of issues such as endangered species, impacts to Salton Sea, county economic impacts and growth inducing impacts.

In 2011, after completing his third term, Art and his wife, Phyllis, formed a consulting business, AG Baggett and PJ Weber, Inc. They specialize in water, natural resources and educational consulting and mediation. Art works as a non-attorney consultant with Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, an engineering firm specializing in water and energy

projects throughout the west. Art also serves as of-counsel to a small water law firm specializing in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission work and counsel to non-governmental organizations and tribes. The bulk of his current work is as mediator and facilitator. Art is currently working to help craft a watershed settlement with 29 parties on the San Joaquin River from Vernalis to the Merced Confluence including the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers. He works with a diverse group of participants and a wide range of issues. Art has kept his general, electrical, and plumbing licenses active and works some with their son, Fritz.

Art's wife, Phyllis retired after completing 33 years as a teacher and principal of both Yosemite Park High and El Portal Elementary Schools located in El Portal. She now works with Art on their corporation, teaches art at the local school and serves on the Yosemite Conservancy and the Yosemite Winter Club boards. Both their children eventually came back home to Mariposa and have homes, gardens, orchards, and animals in the Midpines area of the County. Their daughter, Allison, guides, tends her orchard of 150 trees, teaches, and has a silk screen business (Potentilla Press.) Their son, Fritz, is a fiddle player in a couple bands, works on the Historic Preservation Crew in Yosemite, and with his wife, Lindsey, is the Ostrander Hut keeper in the winter. Art and Phyllis are looking forward to the birth of their first grandchild this month. Spare time is devoted to backcountry skiing, backpacking, hiking, building, and playing music with his family.

Art is very proud of two accomplishments. He was asked to speak at the Stockholm Institute's meeting in 2007 where he was selected as the only representative from the United States to write one of the 12 papers for the proceed-

ings. The second is the lifetime achievement award from his U.S. peers of the Association of Clean Water Agencies.

Art's community involvement includes: Council Member of the Yosemite Conservancy, President of the Pacific Lands and Stewardship Council and Founder of the Anne Schneider Foundation. He has also been an adjunct faculty member at SJCL teaching Water and Environmental Law.

Art has great memories of SJCL such as being in Justice Ardaiz's Evidence class with Lloyd Carter, Donn Furman, Thornton Davidson, and Rick Runcie during the presidential election, having Larry Artenian make contracts understandable and Dave Camenson's Tax class.

Sandra L. Gravano

Upon graduation, Sandra worked in private practice for 2 years. She then worked as a Deputy District Attorney for 4 years in Merced County and one year in Fresno County. For the last 11 years she has been the Chief Attorney at the Merced County Department of Child Support Services.

Sandra has one son, Andrew, who lives in Seattle, Washington. Her daughter, Jeanna, lives in Fresno with Sandra's grandson, Troy Allen, who is 10 years-old. Sandra's mom, Jean Davis, is 80 years old and lives in the house next to Sandra in Clovis.

Sandra has been to London twice and Italy twice (Rome, Florence and Venice). She loves to spend time at the Central Coast and Las Vegas. She is planning on going to Hawaii soon.

She is an avid reader, currently reading Jack Reacher books.

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June Bar Admissions Ceremony

Congratulations to the new SJCL admittees to the Fresno County Bar! Among those sworn in at the June 5th ceremony at the Sisk Courthouse were Michael Brady, Mark Castro, Travis Ishikawa, Michelle Tostenrude and Joshua Zeissler. Other SJCL barpassers may have opted to be sworn in by other officers of the court. In the past, the Hon. Jonathan Conklin and the Hon. Hilary Chittick are among those who have administered the oath in their chambers.

State Bar Board of Governors Representative David Torres was among those to speak to the crowd, welcoming them to a warm and congenial local bar. However, he cautioned against disrespecting the courts, relating the story of an attorney texting in a courtroom who motioned



for the judge to wait until he finished his text. Torres said a local judge probably would have given him a scolding. Justice Brad Hill interrupted him. "You can take the 'probably' out of that."

Meanwhile, Associate Justice Rosendo Peña, Jr. told admittees that their word is

their bond, and those who did not want to practice with integrity "should not practice in a small community," where "everyone knows each other." But he also advised them to develop perspective and take everything with a grain of salt, occasionally adding "a slice of lime and a shot of tequila."

Sandra commutes to work each day for 2.5 hours so she has not gotten involved in community affairs, but wishes she had more time to do this. Sandra is interested in working on issues involving our elderly population and/or foster care children. Her position with Child Support has given her a new appreciation of family and how one person can influence another's life either positively or negatively. She strives to have a positive influence.

Sandra is a member of the Merced County Bar Association and has been employee of the year twice – working as DDA for Merced and Chief Attorney for Merced.

While attending SJCL, Sandra was working full time and had two teenage children. If she had not had the most wonderful study partners, she would probably have gone insane. Thanks to Geoff Sims and Sandi Swilley, she survived.

Peggy Shainberg

After two careers, Peggy is really retired for the second time. Before law school, Peggy worked as a Public Health Nurse in Los Angeles and Mariposa for 30

years. Law school had been in the back of her mind and when she retired from Nursing, with the support of her husband, she entered SJCL. At that time the school was in the old building on Shields across from Children's Hospital. Peggy worked part time at the hospital but found she could not keep up law school and work too, although many others in her class were doing so.

After graduation Peggy worked for the District Attorney in Mariposa. For several years they were the only DA's office in the State that was all female. There were four in the office. One other, Shaun Neal Quinn, was also a SJCL graduate. Among other things, Peggy did Juvenile Court. At times this was hard as she often knew the parents from Public Health Nursing and they thought of her as their advocate rather than adversary, but she always wanted what was best for the juvenile. Peggy made several interesting trips across the country to pick up juveniles taken by a parent or someone with a right to custody. One time Peggy ran into Sally Perring at Fresno Air Terminal and that same trip the deputy with her had bullets in his carry-on, so they had to explain themselves out of that one.

Peggy says "Appearing in the Mariposa County Court House, you are aware of historical events that have taken place there. It is the oldest courthouse in California and the oldest still in continuous use west of the Rockies. To serve on the jury there, you pay attention, as the chairs are old oak straight back. The original pot belly stove that warmed the room for John Fremont's trial is still there."

Currently, Peggy is involved in the local AAUW. She volunteers in the literacy program at the library. She has a learner who wants to take the citizenship test and then try for her GED. Peggy feels like she is learning as much as her learner is.

Peggy enjoys knitting. She and her husband, Howard, have a big garden with an eight foot fence to keep the deer out. Howard plays in the local symphony orchestra. Since she cannot carry a tune, she can at least help with taking tickets for the concerts. Peggy "does the books" for Temple Beth Israel library.

During law school, Peggy rented a studio in a senior complex and it was a quiet place for their study group. She

has memories of Moot Court and being knocked to the floor when she was hit by a swinging door, thinking maybe she broke her leg, a good excuse to delay the experience. Peggy enjoyed law school and is proud to say she is a graduate of San Joaquin College of Law.

Marina Gonzales-Sorlie

Marina continues her criminal defense solo practice in Fresno. Marina represents clients in State and Federal courts throughout California. She still finds her work exciting, and is mindful that, without SJCL, law school would not have been an option. A divorced mom, she commuted from Coarsegold, worked full time, and raised two teenage daughters while attending law school. Daughter, Victoria Sorlie-Aguilar, a grad of USC Keck School of Medicine, is a family doctor in Ventura and is actively involved in local and state boards. Marina proudly informs us that in 2012 Victoria was one of ten Latino doctors selected for a fellowship with the National Hispanic Medical Association. Marina joined her in New York and was present when Victoria received her award. This April, they vacationed together in Washington DC., where they enjoyed sightseeing and crossing a few tourist attractions off Marina's bucket list. A trip to the Grand Canyon this fall is next.

At home, Marina enjoys gardening on her one-acre property in Sanger. This year a small vegetable garden is providing lettuce, tomatoes, green peppers, jalapenos, and red onions. Great summer salads! A dozen vines provide a variety of grapes; citrus and fruit trees round out the banquet. Another favorite pastime is riding her Arabian horse Charlemagne (aka Charlie), a gelding from her previous Arabian, Chablis. Her granddaughters enjoy their visits to Nana's, and are looking forward to their summer vacation this July. Exploring the Crystal Caves at Sequoia is on their list.

After nearly two decades in private practice Marina feels that she has found the right balance between her career and her personal time – not so easy in the beginning when building the practice

consumed much of her time. A four day workweek is now the norm. Marina serves on the Executive Board of La Raza Lawyers Association, and continues supporting local organizations such as Angels of Grace. Recently she spoke at Lowell Elementary School to Girl Power, a group of 4th, 5th and 6th grade students who meet to discuss education and career options.

Marina wishes a bright and happy future for all SJCL students, and thanks the staff at SJCL for their commitment to the community.

Sandra Swilley

Sandi still works as a Staff Accountant for Robert A. Craig, CPA, and she loves it. Sandi is a single mom raising (now) two teenagers, and she loves that, too. Sandi lives in Turlock and spends her free time outdoors as much as possible...hiking, camping, kayaking, traveling, going to baseball games, wine tasting, and enjoying time with family and friends. In fact, she is considering a move in the next couple of years to Idaho so she can be closer to family. Sandi enjoys meeting fellow classmate Sandra Gravano for lunch as often as possible to keep in touch. Sandi can't believe it's been 20 years.

J. Stanley Teixeira

Stan started as a solo practitioner in 1993, then in 1997 began a very short-lived partnership with classmates Michael Dias and David Minyard. He continued partnership with Michael until 2000. Since 2000 he has been solo and in the same location since 1995. Classmate, Kathleen Talens, has recently moved in to share space.

Cliff, is Stan's life partner, and Tule, their dog. They lost their cat, Fresno, last year when she was run over by a car. They have a house in Washington state and like to spend as much time there as possible. They like to travel and have done a fair bit of ocean cruises, but more recently gotten into river cruises. In 2011 they began in Budapest for a cruise on the Danube and ended in Prague for several days (ran into Pierce

Brosnan there and chatted with him). In 2012, they did a Douro River cruise by first spending three nights in Lisbon and then to Porto to board the ship – relaxing cruise with lots of good food and wine. Probably no travel this year as they are taking a break, but trying to narrow down their list of where to go next year. They also enjoy getting together with friends, dining, reading, and movies.

Stan was named best classmate by the Trudi G. Manfredo Foundation and voted most likely to provide a sassy retort by the Catherine Sharbaugh Association. Seriously, Stan just finished a stint as chair of the FCBA Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Section and has presented at some MCLE courses. Stan is very proud of his BBB rating.

Over course of these 20 years, Stan has sat on a few non-profit boards, but now only on Encourage Tomorrow. He has been involved on an ad hoc basis with certain events for different organizations, but is avoiding the long term commitments.

When asked about favorite law school memories he notes, "the friendships that evolved. In some ways, it seems like yesterday, but in other ways so very long ago. The war stories of those years seem to pale in comparison to the ever ongoing new ones."

Thomas Zynda

Tom graduated and was sworn in December 1993. He worked throughout his career for the Office of the Public Defender. He retired after 17 years in April of 2011, although his card is still active.

Tom says the training he received at SJCL prepared him very well for the work. Tom did all kinds of cases – misdemeanors, felonies, conservatorship, and for the last ten years, exclusively dependency. Tom loved his work, but at past age 67 (he retired at exactly 67 1/2), it was time to retire and move on to his own time.

Continued on Page 14

Thus, Tom has been able to spend much time with his wife, Rose Marie Kuhn, who is Professor of French at CSUF, and go to University cultural productions with her. Tom has also been able to travel much more with her. They are about to leave for a trip to Belgium to see her family and then to Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean, where she has a conference. Tom now has more time to read, especially military history.

Tom's best memory of SJCL is having a really great group of people in his study group. He still runs into some SJCL colleagues occasionally, and they recall their bond from those times. Tom was sworn in at 50; He is very appreciative of the opportunity for a second career (previously a professor of Communication Studies) that SJCL afforded him. He hopes that the school continues to do well – that's why he contributes yearly.

2003

Devon (Darrow) McTeer

Devon has been employed at McCormick, Barstow LLP for the last fifteen years in a few capacities. First, she was a paralegal, then a law clerk, and then an associate after graduation from SJCL. She became an income partner in September of 2009.

Devon and her husband, Mason, have two children (a three-year-old and a one-year-old) and a 100- pound German Shepard. They take up most of her time outside of work.

Devon is a member of the American Business Trial Lawyers.

Prior to her second child's birth, Devon was a mock trial coach at Buchanan High School(BHS) from 2009-2010. BHS won the County competition in 2009 and made it to finals in 2010. In 2011-2012, Devon assisted as a mock trial coach at Fresno State University. Her plan is to get back to coaching at the high school level as it was an enjoyable hobby and is a great "evidence code refresher."

There are so many memories to count, but Devon's favorite memories are

spending countless hours studying with Michelle Sassano and Elias Suakjian. There was a funny moment while studying at her apartment when Michelle and Elias were disagreeing about some aspect of the Rule Against Perpetuities and sweet, calm Michelle broke her pencil in half out of frustration. They were a pretty intense study group! They still laugh about that incident 10 years later!

Jonette (Machado) Montgomery

Jonette was employed at Caswell, Bell & Hillison in Fresno from the summer 2002 preceding her third year at SJCL through 2006. She then joined the Dias Law Firm, Inc. in Hanford. Jonette is currently a shareholder of Dias Law Firm, Inc. and has been since 2010. Jonette's practice focus is business and civil litigation, family law, probate and trusts, and estate planning.

Jonette is married and will be celebrating her 10-year wedding anniversary in September with her husband, Ronny Montgomery. They have two sons, Ronny Jr., age 7, who is in the 2nd Grade at Frontier Elementary, and, Rowen, age 2. They currently live in Hanford. Jonette's interests/hobbies include going to Pismo Beach riding quads at the dunes, traveling with her husband on their Harley-Davidson, and attending her son's sporting events and activities.

Jonette is an active member of the Kings County Bar Association and a member of Tulare-Kings Counties Estate Planning Council. She is also an active member of the Kings Guild of Children's Hospital Central California, and outgoing president of the Parent Advisory Committee for the Pioneer Union Elementary School District.

While at SJCL Jonette always enjoyed cramming for exams with her study partner, Ella Floresca. Ella currently works with Jonette at Dias Law Firm, Inc. Jonette also enjoyed working as a library proctor at SJCL.

Traynor (From page 1)

Editor David Bonelli at the closing awards ceremony seemed to clinch the deal. He said the event was the best Traynor Competition he had seen, and while Traynor has committed to a Los Angeles venue for next year and the Bay Area the following year, Witkin editors agree they would love to come back to Fresno in 2016 "if you'll have us."

Another win from the event came in the form of the caliber of the competitors. Judge Lawrence O'Neill expressed his delight, saying "We don't generally have excellence versus excellence in the courtroom."

Justice Brad Hill also praised the skills of the law students, adding his hopes that he was witnessing "not only budding great attorneys, but budding great appellate attorneys."

Other bench officers judging the competition include the Hon. Donald Black, Hon. Nickolas Dibiaso, Hon. Donald Franson Jr., Hon. Anthony Ishii, Hon. Stephen Kane, Hon. Bert Levy, Hon. Barbara McAuliffe, Hon. Sheila Oberto, Hon. Michael Seng, Hon. Jennifer Thurston, and Hon. Steven Vartabedian.

U Visa (From page 3)

not passed the legislative version (the DREAM Act), it is unknown whether the long term fate of DACA applicants will be permanent residence or whether the program will continue. Still, it is a helpful option for young people brought to this country at a young age who in most cases have done everything right despite their undocumented status.

SJCL hosted a DACA event on Saturday April 20,2013 which was co-sponsored by USCIS. The event was a success and several families were assisted with the process and a few reached the stage of file completion. In all approximately 60 individuals were assisted during this important workshop.

SJCL and NALC hope this is just the start of a series of workshops, conferences and events focused on immigration law and immigrants. We invite all in the legal community to attend our events and will keep you updated through Inter Alia of future plans.

Thank you for your support!

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