# Inter Alia

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February 1996

The Newsletter of
San Joaquin
College of Law

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# . . . And to All A Good Night

December 12, 1995 was a night for 56 Fresno County long-term foster care children and the alumni "elves" to remember. The Alumni Association sponsored the Second Annual Christmas Party at the Law School, complete with Santa Claus, a tree and presents for each child.



This event orginated in 1994, providing a Christmas party and gifts for approximately 35 children. In 1995, 56 boys and girls were sponsored and had a wonderful time opening their presents and meeting Santa Claus.

In the fall, a letter was sent to the alumni requesting sponsors. They could either send a check to purchase the gifts or request a child for whom they could personally buy gifts and bring them to the party.

Social Services contacted the foster parents of the children and provided the Alumni Association with the clothing sizes and their special "gift wish" for Christmas.

Recently, Catherine Cline received a call from one of the foster parents expressing the excitement of four children when they opened their presents. They were unable to attend the party, but they were excited when they received the gifts. The foster daughter, who is 11, opened the backpack she received and was amazed that it was exactly what she wanted. In addition, it was filled with many other gifts.

"She would open a pocket of the backpack and find something else. Her eyes would grow big, and she would shout, 'Look!'...she kept shouting 'Look!' until she had emptied her new backpack. It made her Christmas," the foster mother said.

... continued on Page 4

### New Series Offered For Continuing Education

. . . practical skills seminars

For the first time in Valley history, San Joaquin College of Law will be providing The Civil Trial Skills Series for continuing education for attorneys. "The goal of this series is to teach what law books don't--how to effectively present a case before a trial judge and a jury. The courses are not about academic theory or philosophy, but about practical skills utilized by experienced and successful trial lawyers," states Series Chair and Presiding Judge of the Fresno County Consolidated Court Services, Judge Stephen J. Kane.

"After we surveyed the local legal community, we found there was a real need for this type of program," states Dean Janice Pearson. She continues, "To fill this need, the College will be offering a six-week program on Civil Trial Skills." It will be presented during a concentrated period of time from February 20 to March 27 by experienced local trial attorneys and judges.

The six sessions focus on various areas from Beginning a Case, Jury Selection, Effective Use of Evidence, Concluding the Proceeding to Post-trial Procedures. The first session will focus on practical and ethical considerations in deciding whether or not to take a case. In addition, such topics as pleading strategies, pretrial motions, including common mistakes in motions and demurrers, and motions in limine will be discussed. Session one is chaired by The Honorable Rebecca Wiseman and includes panel members Richard Crossman, Katherine Hart, Gerald Maglio, and Holley Perez.

. . . continued on Page 8

# Inside...

Look for more information regarding:

- Moot Court Competition
- New Bar Admittees
- 1995 Donors



# Sally Perring Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

SJCL graduates are skilled graduates. The curriculum offered to the students, while



grounded thoroughly in substantive law classes, also seeks to expose students to the skills they will need when they begin to practice law.

Students begin learning the

skills of their future trade in first-year Legal Analysis and Research and Writing. Moot Court then gives them an opportunity to research in-depth arguable issues, to write coherent briefs and then to defend orally their positions. Advanced Research and Writing fills out the triumvirate of required skills courses. Beyond the required courses, students interested in litigation may take Pretrial Civil Litigation, Civil Trial Practice, Law Office Management, Advanced Criminal Procedure and Criminal Trial Practice. Each of these courses offers the material focused on actual cases or problems,

### 1996 Alumni Association

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usually gleaned from the practicing instructor's own files. The courses take students beyond the classroom, many culminating in a mock courtroom experience. Alternative Dispute Resolution, Mediation and Family Law Mediation also convey skills which many will find helpful in their future practices.

The School also operates two clinics in which students may participate. The Small Claims Clinic, operating for over 10 years, has now provided advice to over 55,000 county residents free-of-charge. Students learn the "ins and outs" of interviewing clients and experience the pressures of quickly researching the law. In the Family Law Mediation Clinic, students mediate property disputes between divorcing spouses without charge to the parties.

However, perhaps the most valuable experience for students is the one offered by the legal community. Student external clinical and clerking placements, whether with a governmental entity or private firm, provide the link between the classroom and the practice of law. Working under the supervision of an attorney, students research and write briefs, memoranda, complaints, responses and other documents. In their third or fourth year of study, they may be certified by the State Bar and may make appearances in court. Students may earn up to four units of academic credit for the work they do on either a compensated or non-compensated basis.

Clinical and clerking placements benefit both the students and those for whom they work. The students gain real world experience, contacts in the legal community and an opportunity to learn about a specialized area of the law. Law school placements often lead to jobs after law school. Those who employ the students gain someone capable of doing the work of an attorney at no or comparatively little cost. Chronically underfunded and overworked governmental entities have long appreciated the help of SJCL students. We hope in the near future to expand Work-Study employment subsidies to non-profit entities. Private firms employ students both on an ongoing and "as needed" basis. Often a student employed temporarily by a firm becomes an indispensable employee. Finally, though certainly more ephemeral, is the satisfaction of helping to mentor a student into the profession of lawyering.

Anyone interested in learning more about the clinical program should contact Pam Ramirez or me at the Law School. ◆

## San Joaquin College of Law

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### René Sample



"Judge Larry
O'Neill has been the
most influential person in my law career," states René.
"As a professor, he
convinced me to go
into litigation. He
was the recruiting
chairman for

McCormick, Barstow when I was hired. He then encouraged me to try teaching, and I am glad he did. Ienjoy teaching because I feel I am giving back to the School."

René wanted to become a lawyer since she was a child. She majored in Business Law at California State University, Fresno, before graduating from SJCL in 1988.

A favorite memory from law school was her ability to time the birth of her first child during the summer break between her third and fourth year. Scotty arrived one week after she turned in her Conflicts Exam.

René has been with McCormick, Barstow since she graduated from SJCL. She practices Insurance Defense Litigation.

She is a newly-elected member of the SJCL Alumni Association. "I put my name in as a nominee because I would like to see the alumni more involved with the students and new admittees. I would like the alumni to donate experience, not just money. I feel that alumni are needed as mentors. I believe students and new admittees can greatly benefit from the vast experience of SJCL graduates."

Spending time with her husband, Scott, and children (Scotty, 8; Shay, 5) is a priority for René. She also finds time to coach the FUSD Mock Trial Teams and continues her education by taking classes at CSUF. René is giving up her usual Wednesday night class at CSUF to teach Civil Trial Practice.

"I was initially intimidated when I graduated from SJCL about how my education would hold up against people from "big name" law schools," René says. "I was pleased to discover the true quality of my education at SJCL. Ididn't just have the knowledge necessary to pass the Bar. After being trained by judges and attorneys, I knew how to think and act like a lawyer. I am grateful for my education at SJCL."

Thank you, René, for all you do for SJCL!◆



### Catherine Cline

Catherine has worked at SJCL since December 29, 1992, as Coordinator of Development. Perhaps one of the most misunderstood jobs at SJCL, planning "parties" is only a small part of her responsibilities.



Her job actually includes running the Annual and the Law Review Annual Fund Drives, planning and overseeing all of SJCL's special events, tracking alumni, organizing the scholarship process and serving as fundraising support. It's a deadline-driven job that includes contact with the community, students and alumni

"Scholarships are the favorite part of my job with the students. I enjoy helping students through the process to receive scholarships annually. Concerning the alumni, the Association's events are a lot of fun for me, especially the Christmas Party for foster kids. The Association's monthly Board meetings help me stay in touch with alumni. While I know more of the recent graduates from coordinating graduations, I would like to become acquainted with more alumni to find out what they want to see happen through the School."

"I'm looking forward to the move to Clovis," Catherine says. "I learned a lot about the building preparing for the Hard Hat Party. It has an impressive history and lots of interesting nooks and crannies to give it a strong 'character."

She is a 1990 Pepperdine graduate with a major in Social Sciences and a History minor. While attending college, she was the Conference Coordinator for Summer Programs as well as the Wedding Coordinator for Pepperdine's chapel.

# November 1995 Bar Passers

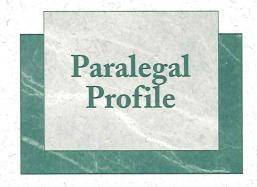
Congratulations to the forty-one San Joaquin College of Law graduates who passed the bar in November.

F. Brian Alvarez
Rebekah Atkinson
Richard Beshwate, Jr.
Kenneth Carver
Kristine Cerro
Steven Clark
Gary Colbert
Miriam Cooper
Jeremias DeMelo, Jr.
Diana Dooley
Edward Fanucchi
Cynthia Frost
Patricia Harter
Jeffrey Heeren

50

Elizabeth Kams
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David Leath
Joan Levie
Lynn Mallory
Karen Mathes
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Lori Najera

Dennis Nard
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Eric Schweitzer
John Sheehan
Regina Tanner
Judith Tuttle
Michele West Scott
Cathleen Wiens
Gilbert Wilkes, IV
Rex Williams
Suzanne Yancey



### Karen Bell

My life has certainly changed since I earned my Paralegal Certificate, and all for the better. It opened a lot of doors for me and helped me to achieve many of my goals.

Before I entered the Paralegal Program at SJCL, I had a B.A. in Environmental Studies but had a difficult time finding a job. I decided that Ineeded to specialize in something. I read in *The Fresno Bee* that SJCL was holding an Open House for its Paralegal Program, and I attended. After the presentation, I decided to become an environmental paralegal.

I attended the SJCL Paralegal Program at night during the 1989-90 Session, while working days at the Fresno City College Library. Shortly after graduation, I saw an advertisement for an environmental paralegal in *The San Francisco Chronicle*. I sent in my resume, interviewed and was hired.

The company for which I worked for was an environmental engineering firm. It was a contractor to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and I worked on litigation support and compliance investigation projects under CERCLA and RCRA (hazardous materials/solid waste projects). In a nutshell, I investigated potential sources of chemical releases and spills at Superfund sites, obtained and analyzed real property title records, prepared and sent interrogatories, and wrote technical reports and legal memoranda summarizing evidence of liability.

The job was very interesting and rewarding, but after three years, I started to get "itchy feet."

### "Save the Dates"

| TGIF Breakfast | February 23, 1996 |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Spring Banquet | March 22, 1996    |
| TGIF Breakfast | March 29, 1996    |
| Graduation     |                   |

I decided I wanted to live and work in Germany. I found the names of half a dozen environmental consulting firms located in Germany. Armed with that, I quit my job in San Francisco and bought a one-way ticket to Germany. I stayed with friends until I found a job.

I found a job in Heidelberg with an American environmental engineering company as an office/project manager. I stayed with this company for a year and a half, until it decided to close its European operations. After a fourmonth job hunt, I found my present employer and moved to Bonn. I now work for a nonprofit, non-governmental organization called IUCN - The World Conservation Union, in the Environmental Law Centre. I am working primarily as a secretary. I decided to take this job because it would be an interesting opportunity to learn something about international environmental law. Currently, in addition to secretarial duties, I also edit the attorney's conference papers and the Centre's newsletter. I enjoy this additional work because it allows me to discover new issues in environmental law.

While my present position may not be my "dream" job, I am very happy to have realized my dream of living and working in Germany! In the future, however, I would like to work in a law firm on issues of land use and zoning. The path from SJCL to Germany has been a journey that I wouldn't have missed.

## "Good Night"

. . . continued from Page 1

The mother also expressed how important this was to the children. She is their aunt who is raising the children since her sister (their mother) was murdered several years ago. These gifts and the fact that strangers took the time to give them their "Christmas wish" touched the entire family, and she called to say "Thank you."

This is just one of many stories that came from this service by alumni, faculty, staff and students. The Alumni Association Board appreciates the terrific participation and hopes to see this worthwhile and fun project grow each year!

A special "Thank you" to Glen Gates and Kopi Sotiropulos (of KMPH - Channel 26) who provided great Christmas fun for the children at the party. Next year, the alumni may want to "brush up" on their Christmas carolling for the kids!

Inter Alia February 1996



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CD-Rom Tower

Gifts between October 11, 1994 and December 31, 1995.

The following symbols indicate contributions to specific funds/programs:

- Building FundEndowment Fund
- Law Review
- Library Fund
- Scholarships
- → Faculty Support
- 6 Gifts Over \$10,000



7

### **November Moot Court Winners**

On November 16, 17, and 18, 1995, San Joaquin College of Law hosted the George A. Hopper Moot Court Competition. The Fall 1995 semester's instructors for Moot Court were Jon Conklin and Ken Melikian. The winners were toasted at a reception at the Law School on November 30. Congratulations to all participants for a job well done!

First Place Oralist Robert Wright

Second Place Oralist
Allan Junker

Third Place Oralist
Brian Gupton

Fourth Place Oralist Lydia Tripoli

Semi-Finalists - Oralists
Jackie Rodriquez
Michelle Green
Judy Barron
Linden Lindahl

First Place Best Brief JonPaul Avent

Second Place Best Brief
Doreen Cole

Third Place Best Brief Judy Barron

Fourth Place Best Brief Nick Pavlovich

Semi-Finalists - Written Brief
Cynthia Hopper
Brian Gupton
Allan Junker
Michelle Green

Once again, the alumni, legal community, law students and paralegal students supported the need for judges and timekeepers. Joan Lassley, Law Coordinator, sends her thank you

along with SJCL's for everyone's time and cooperation.

The following people served as judges during the three-day competition:

Daniel Bensing (Faculty) Greg Bixler (2 rounds) Tim Buchanan Hon. Nickolas DiBiaso Peter Dickrell ('94) Hon. John Fitch (2 rounds) Hon. John Gallagher Laurel Greene Joe Johns John Joyce ('81) Kathy Kalmanir Francine Kanne ('88) Hon. Vincent McGraw (Faculty) Gitta Merrill ('95) Laurence Meyer ('87) Kevin Rooney Kathy Servatius (2 rounds) Cathy Sharbaugh ('93) William Shipley Geoffrey Sims ('93) (2 rounds) Hon. James Thaxter Robert Wynne ('89) Jackie Yates ('92) Alan Yengoyan

Thanks goes to the following people for serving as timekeepers during the competition:

Melissa Barrios (2nd Year Law)
Rachel Blue (3rd Year Law)
Kim Buttrey (1st Year Law)
Kim Mayhew (2nd Year Law)
Robert Meade (3 rounds) (1st Year Law)
Yolanda Reeves (2nd Year Law)
Mary Viancourt (1st Year Law)
Clint Wilcox (1st Year Law)

# T G I F Breakfasts

TGIF Breakfasts are your opportunity to meet informally with fellow alumni-a request from the Alumni Surveys. A continental breakfast will be served starting at 7:30 a.m. at Marie Callender's (Cedar & Shaw) on the *last Friday of each month*. This is your opportunity to "catch up" with alumni and find out what's going on at the Law School between *Inter Alia* issues. For more information, contact Kristin, Catherine or Karen at 225-4953.

Mark your calendar for Upcoming TGIF Breakfasts...

Sale The Dates!

February 23 March 29 April 26 May 31

Make your reservation by calling 225-4953

### **News Briefs**

### Entertainment Book Sales a Success

Thanks to Joan Lassley, Law Coordinator, for successfully running the Entertainment Book sale for the Building Fund. Through Joan's off-hours efforts, the Building Fund received \$595. Joan says, "I didn't do it all by myself. Thanks also goes to everyone who bought books and asked their friends to buy them, too." Thank you, Joan, for all you do for SJCL. •

#### SJCL Placement Service Available

Whether you are planning to hire or be hired, remember San Joaquin College of Law's Placement Service. For more information, contact Pam Ramirez at 225-4953. ◆

## Volume 5 of Law Review Available

The latest issue of San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review, Volume 5, is now available for \$12. It contains a symposium on marketing orders, as well as other articles concerning agricultural law. SJCL's bookstore has Volume 5 and all back issues available for sale. Copies can also be ordered by calling Karen Besecker at 225-4953. ◆

San Joaquin College of Law 3385 E. Shields Avenue Fresno, CA 93726-6968

#### Additional Alumni Specialist

Robert Sherman Wynne ('89) was named a "Certified Specialist, Criminal Law" by the State Bar of California, Board of Legal Specialization on September 15, 1995. ◆

### MCLE

. . . continued from Page 1

The second session, Jury Selection, is Chaired by John Baker. "We will discuss everything from the pros and cons of jury trial, voir dire, preemptory challenges, and opening statements." Other panel members include Andrew Weiss and The Honorable Lawrence O'Neill.

Effective Use of Evidence is the topic for sessions three and four. Donald Glasrud, Panel Four Chair states, "Effective use of evidence is critical in any trial. It is our goal in sessions three and four to emphasize non-expert and expert evidence."

Session five includes topics such as closing arguments, jury instructions, verdict forms, jury deliberations and juror misconduct. It is chaired by Mario Beltramo, Jr. Other panel members include Daniel Baradat and The Honorable Hollis Best.

The concluding session, Post-Trial Procedures, is chaired by Robert Hillison. Topics include stay of execution, motion for new trial, judgment NOV, motions to correct or vacate judgment, and costs and attorney fees. Other panel members include C. Russell Georgeson and The Honorable Nickolas Dibiaso.

"It should be a practical, comprehensive, real-world skills and strategy course for all stages of a litigation or arbitration matter," Glasrud states. Attorneys who attend the Civil Trial Skills Series will earn 3 hours of MCLE Credit per session including legal ethics credit for some sessions.

For more information, contact Sydney Fournet at 225-4953. ♦

### Cline

... continued from Page 3

Catherine likes to travel in her leisure time. She has traveled extensively in Europe and the United States. In Fall 1989, she lived in London and traveled in Eastern Europe. During Summer 1992, she taught English in Switzerland.

Catherine is the proud aunt of Caitlin and Corey. Her other hobbies include golf and, time permitting, theater.

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