



Inter Alia

San Joaquin College of Law Quarterly Newsletter
Volume XVIII, Number 4

December 2007
2 Senior Law Day
3 Awards
4 Susie Osterberg
4 Got MCLE
6 Donors
7 Profiles
11 Library Acquisitions

Release reception honors SJALR's 16th edition

On November 1st, the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review held a reception and wine tasting for the release of their 16th Edition.

By **Adam Stirrup**, *Editor-in-Chief*

San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review's reception featured the pairing of fine wines with delicious appetizers prepared by Chef Reyes Chacon of 1 to 1 Catering. The reception was well attended by local scholars, attorneys, and agribusiness professionals as well as the administration of San Joaquin College of Law.

The current Editorial Board is working to enlist some of these individuals to serve as the Law Review's Advisory Board to provide guidance to future Editorial Boards in their efforts continually to publish relevant and thought provoking volumes.

At this reception it was announced that the recent article published in the Law Review's 16th Edition entitled "Farm Family Succession Planning: Balancing Professional Responsibility with Client Needs for Help with Family Relationship Problems" written by John Becker, Matthew Kaplan, and Jon Nussbaum, was named one of two articles to receive the American Agricultural Law Association's 2007

Professional Scholarship Award. This award is intended to recognize and encourage scholarly work relevant to important legal issues in agriculture.

If you would like more information on the Law Review or are interested in obtaining a copy of our most recent volume, please visit the Law Review's website at www.sjcl.edu/sjalr.



(ABOVE L-R) **Matt Schmidt**, *Production Editor*, **Wendy Aguilar**, *Articles Editor*, **Rhea Ikemiya**, *Executive Editor*, **Adam Stirrup**, *Editor-in-Chief*, **Brooke Sorensen**, *Managing Editor*, and **Peter Wall**, *Assistant Editor-in-Chief*.

(LEFT) Hors d'oeuvre by **Chef Reyes Chacon** of **1 to 1 Catering**

Senior Citizens Law Day

On October 20th, the San Joaquin College of Law, SJCL Alumni Association and Clovis Senior Center presented a Community Partnership Program for our senior citizens.

By Joan Lassley, *Alumni Liaison*

The Senior Citizens Law Day was started in 2003 to provide senior citizens with free access to legal information. This year more than 70 seniors registered. Several presenters participated. Detective David Case, of the Fresno County Sheriff's

ability to stay independent and empowered as long as possible. Resources and support systems were discussed.

Information for caregivers was also available. This included actions families can take to avoid a Conservatorship, how to establish a conservatorship if it becomes necessary, and what grandparents need to do if they suddenly find themselves caring for their grandchildren. A section on end of life decisions, healthcare directives and durable powers of attorney was presented by Cathy Sharbaugh, Esq. (Law '93). Two separate sections of estate planning and wills and trusts were presented by Richard Hemb, Esq. (Law '92) and Marcella Downing, Esq. (Law '05).

Roberts, Esq., from Caswell, Bell and Hillison. He explained how to maximize real estate options and transfer value to future generations.



Richard Hemb, Esq. (Law '92)

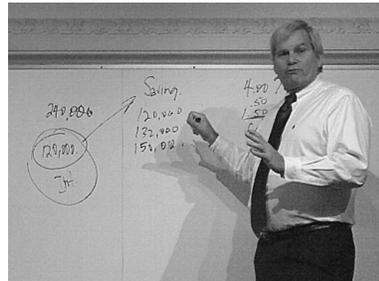
The 2007 Law Day Committee consisted of Nancy LeVan, Chair, and Joan Lassley, Alumni Liaison, with Kimberly Mayhew, and Jennifer

Walters, Alumni Association Board Members, and Carey Watt, student SBA liaison. They wish to thank the presenters and student volunteers who made the day such a huge success. We would also like to thank



Marcie Downing, Esq. (Law '05)

office, spoke on elder abuse – what it is, how to prevent it, who to report it to, and what actions to take. With him was Ron Nijmeddin (Law '04), Fresno County Superior Court, Senior Court Examiner, who gave information on how to file a claim, what forms need to be filed and the court process. Also presented was a workshop on “Elder Care: a Family Affair” by Nancy Altschuler, Residential Homecare Services & Nancy LeVan, Esq. (Law '00). Their discussion was about the



Dave Roberts, Esq.

Offering advice on lending issues & reverse mortgages was David A.

the Clovis Memorial District for donating the beautiful flags that were used as door prizes for the attendees and the California Telephone Access Program, which distributes telecommunications equipment and services to individuals certified as having difficulty using the telephone, for bringing in samples of equipment that is available. The referral sheet created for the event can be found on the SJCL web page.



Board of Trustees

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Outstanding Philanthropic Foundation

On November 6, 2007, the Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation was awarded the Outstanding Philanthropic Foundation by the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Mr. Garabedian earned international renown as a fruit farmer and fruit breeder, patenting 45 varieties of plums, peaches, nectarines, apricots, and grapes here in the Central Valley. The Foundation was established in 1993. The private foundation serves charitable organizations, primarily located in California's Central Valley, which benefit arts/culture/humanities, community activities/improvements, education, ethics/religion, and health/human services. Since its inception, the Foundation has distributed over \$5 million dollars in funding to organizations throughout Fresno County and beyond.

Since 1995, the Garabedian Foundation has contributed over \$48,000 to San Joaquin College of Law. Contributions to SJCL have supported a variety of areas including: support of the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review, renovations to the current law school facility including re-wiring of classrooms to better support student use of laptop computers, purchase of new fund development software to allow better tracking of donations and gifts, purchase of new library acquisitions such as Moore's Federal Practice, and purchase of the microform reader for the Law Library.

The Foundation's willingness to provide such a broad spectrum of financial support has allowed the law



(L-R) **Robin Leppo**, Director of Institutional Advancement, **Janice Pearson**, Dean, and **Malcolm Stewart** (Law '77), Board Member of the Garabedian Foundation

school to take necessary steps towards achieving American Bar Association accreditation for the future. Congratulations to the Garabedian Foundation for this prestigious honor.

Agricultural Business of the Year



SJCL Board Member Ross Borba's family business, Borba Farms, was awarded the 2007 "Ag Business of the Year" by Baker, Peterson & Franklin, CPA, for their commitment to Central Valley agriculture.

Borba Farms is a highly diversified agricultural operation that has its roots in Riverdale starting in 1919. What started as a dairy with 40 cows and 120 acres has grown into an 8,600-acre farm that grows everything from lettuce and cotton to garlic and almonds.

Full-Time Faculty

Lawrence M. Artenian, Brian L. Baker, Richard M. Cartier, Denise M. Kerner, Janice L. Pearson, Sally A. Perring, Jeffrey G. Purvis

Adjunct Faculty

Jesse Avila; Art Baggett, Barry J. Bennett, Hristo Bijev, Stanley A. Boone, Andreas Borgeas, David M. Camenson, Dan Casas, Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Phil Cronin, Mark Cullers, Matthew Farmer, Jack Fischer; Tom Georgouses, Christine Goodrich, Jason Hamm, Allan E. Junker, Hon. David Kalemkarian, Jeremy Lusk, Kathi K. Kesselman, Michael P. Mallery, Jeff Manning-Cartwright, Deanna Martinez, Lewis Martinez, William T. McLaughlin II, Mark D. Miller, Douglas E. Noll, Kimberly Nystrom-Geist, Harry Pascuzzi, Rose Safarian, Gary Sawyers, Michael Sheltzer, Michael Slater, Hon. Mark Snauffer, Bob Whitlock, Jacqueline Yates.

Law Review receives national award

by **Adam Stirrup**,
SJALR Editor-in-Chief

SJCL is pleased to announce that the recent article published in Volume 16 of the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* entitled "Farm Family Succession Planning: Balancing Professional Responsibility with Client Needs for Help with Family Relationship Problems" written by John Becker, Matthew Kaplan, and Jon Nussbaum, was named one of two articles to receive the American Agricultural Law Association's 2007 Professional Scholarship Award. This award is intended to recognize and encourage scholarly work that is relevant to important legal issues in agriculture.

Got MCLE?

On Saturday, September 15, 2007 the SJCL Alumni Association hosted a free 3 hour MCLE program for all Alumni Association members.

By **Joan Lassley**, *Alumni Liaison*

This year's event included offering the program for a nominal fee to the rest of the legal community. The chairman for the event was 2004 graduate, Cristina Jelladian, who practices with Wild, Carter & Tipton.

The sessions were presented by distinguished guest lecturers. The Honorable Dennis L. Beck spoke on Electronic Discovery, The Honorable Debra J. Kazanjian presented a program on Contested Guardianships and Conservatorships. Two SJCL adjunct professors also spoke. The Honorable Jonathan B. Conklin

discussed Aggravated Sentencing and The Honorable Kimberly Nystrom-Geist spoke on Family Law issues. In the last hour of the day, Lawyers as Indentured Servants was presented by Robert L. Howk and Richard C. Waters of Miles, Sears & Eanni, spoke on Plaintiffs' Tort/Personal Injury law.

Kathy McKenna (Law '99) of the California State Department of Justice stated "Judge Dennis Beck's talk on electronic discovery was a must for anyone who has a litigation practice in federal court and Judge Conklin's session on sentencing in the Superior Court was particularly helpful in

explaining the factors of which attorneys should be aware and explain to their clients in helping them decide whether to accept a grant of probation."



Honorable Dennis L. Beck

In Memorium



Susie Osterberg

Susie "Effie Marie" Osterberg served on the San Joaquin College of Law Board of Trustees for thirteen years. She retired from the Board in 2007 when she was waging a valiant battle with brain cancer. She passed away peacefully on October 2, 2007.

Susie helped introduce SJCL to the City of Clovis. She facilitated the restoration of SJCL's building and was elated that it was not torn down. Susie worked with SJCL administration choosing the colors of the exterior to insure their historical integrity and supported two fundraising campaigns to keep the exterior shining. The law school's stewardship of the building was very important to her, especially since she and her husband both graduated from the building in the late 1940's when it was Clovis High School.

Susie's smile was contagious and her demeanor toward everyone delightful. She will be greatly missed.

Staff

Janice Pearson, Dean, **Sally Perring**, Dean of Academic Affairs, **Brian Baker**, Director of the Law Library, **Debbi Chacon**, Accounting Assistant, **Kristi Costa**, Head of Circulation, **Ken Coyle**, Manager of Information Systems, **Matthew Dillard**, Maintenance Assistant, **Mark Enns**, Marketing Manager, **Megan Fuller**, Library Assistant, **Maureen Hayes**, Assistant to Chief Financial Officer, **Lonzetta Hightower**, Student Services Assistant, **Joan Lassley**, Facilities Administrator & Alumni Liaison, **Robin Leppo**, Director of Institutional Advancement, **Jeannie Lewis**, Director of Financial Aid, **Joyce Morodomi**, Director of Student Services, **Mia Richards**, Administrative Assistant for Accounting, **Carlyn Robbins**, Assistant Receptionist, **Rick Rodriguez**, Maintenance Supervisor, **Pete Rooney**, Associate Library Director & Head of Technical Services, **Patricia Smith**, Law Coordinator, **Diane Steel**, Director of Admissions, **Cynthia Van Doren**, Director of Career Services, **Jill Waller-Randles**, Chief Financial Officer, **Gwen Watt**, Human Resources & Regulatory Compliance Officer, **Kasi Welte**, Institutional Advancement Associate & Continuing Legal Education Coordinator

SJCL Alumnus addresses Farm Credit Administration

SJCL Alumnus addresses Farm Credit Administration leaders during California Agricultural Tour

SJCL graduate Randy M. Ataide (Law '86) held a question and answer period for Board and Staff members of the Federal Farm Credit Administration (FCA). Questions pertained to emerging financial services, products and competitive challenges for California tree fruit growers and how the FCA, Farm Credit System (FCS) and its member financial services cooperatives can remain the lenders

of choice for the vibrant agricultural economy across the United States.

The FCA, based in McLean, Virginia, visited several key agricultural operations based in the San Joaquin Valley during a three day visit from September 30 - October 2, 2007. The FCA is the independent federal agency for examining and regulating the approximately 175 billion dollar Farm

Credit System (FCS). The FCA group included representatives, Board Members, and staff from lending agencies throughout California.

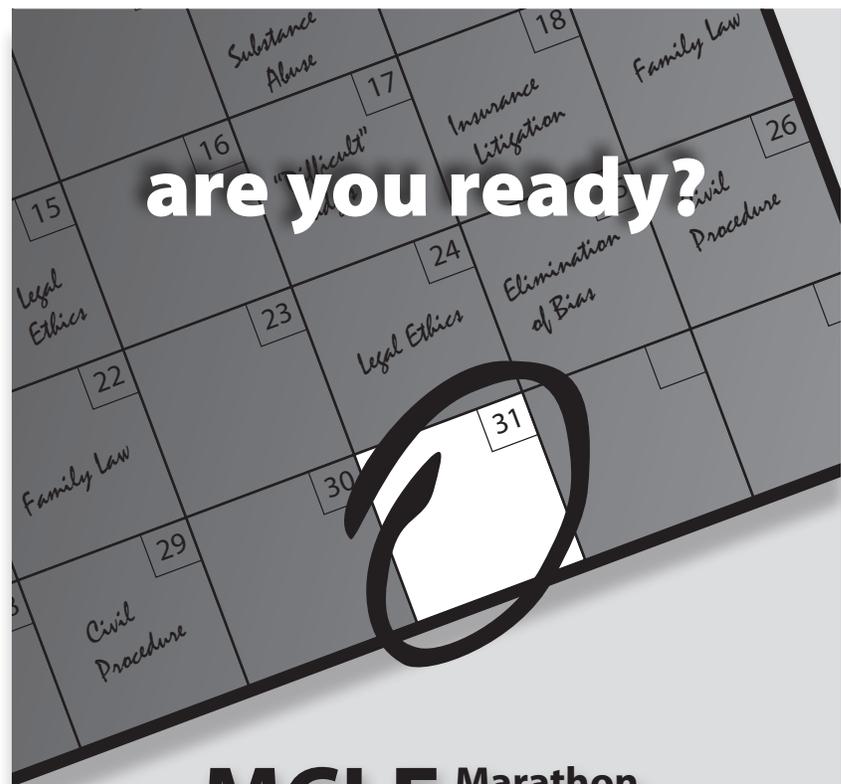
The tour made an afternoon visit to Mountain View Fruit Sales, where the Q&A was held, and cold storage facilities located in Reedley. Ataide is a principal in the Mountain View family of companies.

SJCL awarded Mother - Baby Friendly Workplace

By Joan Lassley

On November 27, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, which includes Susan Anderson (Law '87), Judy Case, Phil Larson, Henry Perea, and Chairman Bob Waterston, recognized San Joaquin College of Law as a Mother-Baby Friendly Workplace.

The Fresno County Department of Community Health, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division's Babies First Breastfeeding Task Force recognized seven employers in Fresno County as Mother-Baby Friendly. The employers getting honored were Babies-R-Us, Children's Services Network, First 5 Fresno, Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, Mommy Matters, OMNI Women's Health and San Joaquin College of Law. Gwen Watt, SJCL's Regulatory Compliance Officer, received the award on behalf of the law school.



MCLE Marathon Month

MCLE programs throughout the month of January

For more information
visit our website at

www.sjcl.edu/mcle or

call **Kasi Welte** at **559-323-2100**



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COLLEGE OF LAW

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August 1, 2007 – November 30, 2007

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.

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Deborah A. Coe ('91)
Student Bar Association

Gifts of \$500 – 999

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by Joan Lassley

Advancement Developments

As we forge into another fiscal year, and close out this calendar year, I want to take this opportunity to thank all our generous and supportive donors. With so many worthwhile non-profit organizations to give to during this holiday season, we are so thankful that you have chosen to support us. I am happy to report that SJCL's total giving has increased from \$13,468 at this time last year to, \$23,642 to date, this year. This year's total includes a 45% increase in number of donors and a 62% increase in number of gifts received.

By now you may have received the Annual Fund letter featuring current student, Adam Stirrup, on the cover. Please remember a gift to the Annual Fund – no matter the size – works immediately. We also sent out the SJCL Donor Wall appeal to all our donors who have a place on the Wall and those who are very close to being placed on the wall. We look forward to honoring all our donors who have reached a lifetime giving level of \$2,500 or more. Look for your invitation in the mail soon.

January is rapidly approaching and with the cool breeze comes the whiff of much needed scholarship aid money for many of our students. It is that time of year when we start contacting our scholarship donors to renew their agreements and fund this much needed student program. SJCL currently offers 18 scholarships that are funded by generous alumni and friend donors, the most recent being formed in memory of SJCL's former Board of Trustee member and respected friend and attorney, Elizabeth O'Neill. Scholarships are a great way to give back to the law school and ensure a legacy for current and future students. If you are interested in donating to a scholarship or creating a new one, please contact the Advancement Department for details.

Season's Greetings from the Advancement Team to all our alumni and generous supporters!



Robin Leppo
Director of Institutional Advancement

Alumni Profiles

SJCL congratulates our alumni celebrating 10, 20 and 30-year anniversaries in 2007. It has been my pleasure contacting and interviewing each of you. Thanks to those who participated in this effort. I look forward to catching up at the next milestone.

-Joan Lassley, Alumni Liaison

1977

E. Marshall Hodgkins

Marshall graduated from SJCL on May 27, 1977, took the Bar, and passed that same year. He was sworn in on December 21, 1977. Since he had interned as a law clerk during law school, he was offered and accepted a position as Deputy District Attorney. At the District Attorney's Office he was on various teams, including the career criminal and homicide teams. He tried just about every type of case that one could try in criminal law. He left there in May of 1984 when the Fresno County Board of Supervisors created the position of Legal Advisor to the Fresno County Sheriff's Department. He received a phone call indicating that the "Powers that Be" thought he would be perfect for that position. Marshall occupied that position for 2 1/2 years.

Since 1987 Marshall has been in private practice as a criminal defense lawyer. Because of his background, he carved out a specialty in which approximately 85% of his practice involves representing police officers and correctional officers around the Central Valley in disciplinary and criminal actions. The rest of his practice is criminal defense.

Marshall is a single father of two teenage daughters who are the love of his life. They have lived in Clovis for 18 years. For the last 17 years, his children have been his main focus and interest. He also enjoys the theatre, horseback riding, and guest speaking in classes and community forums. Marshall has been actively involved in whatever church he attends. He

also volunteers for various Christian activities when there are events around the Valley.

Marshall was president of the Student Body during his last year at SJCL. His memories of law school involve colleagues that he currently practices with or against. He states, "There is a certain kinship that never goes away, even though we are dealing with each other 30 years later. As I look back on my law school memories, it is simply beyond my belief that I was able to discipline myself the way that was necessary to succeed!"

1987

Timothy V. Logoluso

Tim graduated with distinction in 1987, passed the bar and was sworn in the same year. He began clerking for the firm of Smurr & Henry in May 1985. Chief Justice James Ardaiz had recommended him for the position. Tim was offered an associate position at the firm upon passing the bar. He became a partner in the firm in 1994, and, after restructuring, the firm name was changed to its current name of Henry, Logoluso & Blum. Tim is currently the President and one of the firm owners. All five attorneys currently at the firm, Jerry Henry (Law '74), Tim Logoluso (Law '87), Mark Blum (Law '92, Tres Porter (Law '03) and Manuel Bettencourt (Law '05) are SJCL alumni.

Tim is married to Renee Dawson Logoluso, who graduated from SJCL in 1988. Tim met his lovely bride at SJCL, so would consider that his fondest memory. Renee and Tim have two beautiful children, Danielle and

Nicole, ages twelve and five respectively, who consume most of their time... but they would have it no other way! Tim enjoys golf but does not get an opportunity to play very often because of work and their eldest daughter's soccer commitments.

Tim had the pleasure of trying the very first jury trial in the new SJCL courtroom. It was many years ago during the time Fresno County had limited courtroom availability and received grant monies to secure retired judges to preside over trials in different locales. SJCL was one of them.

Lisa Nilmeier

Lisa is currently employed at Pappas Telecasting Companies, as in-house legal counsel. She works with a fellow alumnus, Steven Alferis (Law '97). Pappas Telecasting Companies owns and/or operates 23 full-power television stations throughout the country with more than 800 employees. Lisa and Steve assist their station management in a variety of matters, including personnel issues, drafting and review of contracts, issues relating to the First Amendment and their rights as a news organization, and FCC related filings. Lisa has been in the television business now for over 13 years. She loves the atmosphere at the TV station.

Lisa has been married to her husband, Brad, for 22 years; they married during her third year in law school. They spent the next 7 years working and traveling B.K. (before kids) and then went on to have 3 great kids – Paige (15), Tracy (13) and Conner (10).

Lisa has served as a board member for the YWCA (now Marjaree Mason Center), California Women for Agriculture, and the United Way. She is now actively involved in volunteering for her children's schools - St. Anthony's and San Joaquin Memorial High School.

When asked about any SJCL memories she responded, "Just shared

Continued on Page 8

this one with a co-worker the other day - Thursday nights after class Tim Logoluso, Joe Cooper, Mark Busick and I would recap our week over beers and pickles at the Silver Dollar Hofbrau. Great times. Thanks for the memories!”

1997 Robert Bassett

Robert went to work for the Tuolumne County District Attorney after graduation and worked there until 2001. From 2001 to 2006 Robert worked in firms practicing insurance defense, personal injury, construction defect, employment and environmental litigation. In 2006 he moved back to Fresno and went to work for Vitale & Burns where he does construction defect litigation.

Robert is married to Christy. They have four children - Mary Elizabeth (13), Matthew (8), Virginia (6) and Katherine (2). Robert enjoys spending time with his family and skiing.

When asked what he recalls from his days at SJCL, Rob stated “I recall how wonderful the staff was, except for Jeff Purvis, who thought he was starring in the *Paper Chase*. Of course, Jeff meant well and was just trying to get us to use the brains that God gave all of us. I remember the excitement of making it through the first year, the drudgery of second year and the apathy filled third year.”

“More importantly, I remember the friendships created in study groups and class. It was a crazy time of transition filled with fear and hope all at the same time. I remember playing basketball with the Tree Frogs in Clovis. I remember late nights of studying and late nights of just talking about life and how we could make the world a better place. I remember the first law school run in Clovis and watching Judge Ardaiz getting ready to show all his Evidence students the way a race should really be run. I remem-

ber the old campus, the donut shop and its wall of shame with all of those bounced checks.”

“I do not remember all of the names (I forget my kids’ names and I see them every day) but I do remember the faces filled with hope and stress. I remember kindness, sharing and working toward a common goal-graduation and passing the bar. I have not seen many of my classmates over the last 10 years, but when I see a familiar face in a restaurant, court or walking down the street, I am taken back to a time when life was simpler and for a short time, my universe is small enough to feel a sense of joy and happiness about my years at San Joaquin College of Law.”

Janet Fiorentino

Janet is currently teaching Business Law and Political Science for Fresno City College at the Willow/International campus. She also teaches Legal Research and Writing for Fresno Pacific University. Janet fell into teaching while awaiting her bar results. After working on writing appeals, she decided teaching would best suit her needs. She says, “It’s exciting to see students become interested in law, our political system and legal analysis.” Many of Janet’s students have gone on to law school with her encouragement and assistance. Although she is not practicing law full time, she keeps her law license current and does occasional probate and contract work.

Janet is happily single and the mom to two cats and a dog. She does many activities with her mom and sisters. They took a cruise to Alaska two years ago and plan to take another cruise this spring to Mexico. She enjoys taking short trips to San Francisco and Las Vegas.

When Janet is not writing exams or course work, she works on short stories and novels, which she is currently trying to publish. Janet is an active member and legal advisor for the San Joaquin Valley Taxpayers Association. She plans to one day run for office, perhaps a school board.

Janet only spent one semester at the Clovis campus, so most of her memories of campus life tie to the old Shields Avenue building. She recalls that she would have to park at the strip mall and jump the brick wall to get to class. She also remembers being the first student called on to brief a case in Contracts class. Luckily she was prepared!

Danny W. Green

Danny has a solo practice in employment law, real estate, business, and estate planning with an office in Santa Maria. His primary focus has been employment law, representing employees. He joined the National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA) while still at SJCL and has been a member of the California Employment Lawyers Association (CELA) since beginning practice in 1998. He attends all the annual CELA conferences. Danny has had a couple of contentious litigations that were very rewarding. One included representing an employee of the City of Santa Maria Streets Department resulting in reinstatement with back pay after first prevailing on a writ of mandate challenging the City’s procedure for terminating employees. The second was representing a mentally disabled adult who was severely harassed and teased by coworkers. The defendant was a large retailer with outlets nationwide. Their defense was vigorous and challenging. The result was a very beneficial settlement for his client who has since been very successful working for as a courtesy clerk at a local supermarket. Obtaining justice for these employees and many others has been very rewarding.

Danny shares office space with a CPA; they refer clients to each other and share a receptionist. His estate planning practice enables him to assist couples and individuals in arranging their estates so as to minimize disruptions and distribute wealth according to their wishes. It is satisfying work. Law was his second career after first being an oil company owner for 23

years. Danny was accepted to Hastings in 1972 when he graduated from UCSB but he did not attend. Since this is his second career, he can be very selective in choosing the clients he takes. He works as much as he wants and spends several weeks each year traveling.

Danny has a beautiful wife of thirty-seven years, Heidi. They live in Pismo Beach in a wonderful location overlooking the ocean. Heidi is president of the local chapter of P.E.O., a philanthropic organization that provides financial assistance to women seeking higher education. His son is the chief financial officer of Cuesta College. His son's wife is a medical laboratory specialist in San Luis Obispo. They are expecting their first child on December 28. Danny's daughter is married to a policeman for the City of Roseville, California. They have three children, including a set of twins. Heidi and Danny are very proud grandparents. They enjoy living by the beach and close to their son and his wife.

Traveling is Danny's primary interest outside of work. Heidi is a very good travel planner. They took a trip to Lexington, Massachusetts on Patriot's Day to see the re-enactment of the "shot heard 'round the world" on the Lexington Green. The trip included stops in Boston, Concord, and Lexington. Then, they continued to tour North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. They also toured the Canadian Rockies and have made several trips to Cancun, Maui, and Kauai, -- his favorite. He has now been in every state except Alaska. Danny has also been to Switzerland, England, France, and Italy. His other interests include driving and working on his 1915 antique touring car, 1965 Mustang, and Harley Springer. Danny hatches pheasant eggs in an incubator and releases the young birds from his aviary into the wild. He also makes wooden boomerangs in his garage and enjoys flying them.

Danny enjoyed his SJCL classes very much. This was probably due to the fact he was always prepared because he worked full time running his oil company during the week and prepared for his entire week's classes on the preceding weekend. He enjoyed watching the school mature and occupy the new building. Finally, he especially enjoyed the strong spirit of cooperation among all the students, demonstrated by their sharing notes and knowledge. As Dean Pearson explained, grading was not on a curve and every student could earn a high grade, if every student learned the material. Therefore, sharing knowledge and notes benefited them all. He enjoyed the special relationships with classmates that this environment created.

Cindy J. Hopper

After graduation Cindy opened an office across from the Fresno Courthouse handling primarily criminal and family law matters. During that time she practiced "door law" (you know, anything that came through the door). Cindy moved her office to Amador Street when she was appointed to the largest gang trial in the history of Fresno County. Cindy was counsel for one of 14 defendants in a trial lasting approximately eight months. It was quite an experience and she fully enjoyed it. (She even got to fly to Utah and haul back a witness at taxpayer's expense.) After the birth of her son, she decided to limit her practice to family law and created the Central Valley Family Law Center. Being a lawyer is everything she dreamed it would be and more.

In 2000 Cindy married her long-time boyfriend, Tracy Reich. A year later the joy and love of her life was born, Keegan Reich. Since then she has tried to juggle full time work with being a full time mom; sometimes it's a heavy load. She is very thankful to have Tracy helping. For instance, their child, who is quite spirited (he takes after his Dad, you know,), was kicked out of preschool and recently was threatened with expulsion from the first grade. Cindy did not know you could get kicked out of preschool. "And who

would ever think a first grader could get expelled?" Lucky for them, it was his first offense. Cindy did take him by Juvenile Hall after that and explained the system to him. He understood that it wasn't good to have "the man" looking over his shoulder and his mother was not going to represent him for free. He would have to save his allowance because attorney's fees are very expensive. As a mother and a woman, Cindy knew right where to get him -- in his piggybank. Keegan is a very loving, intelligent (he takes after her), and rambunctious child and, of course, Cindy's mother said to her "payback is no fun". Having Keegan and being a mother is the best thing she ever did, besides law school.

Cindy has donated her time and received awards for serving as a Judge Pro Tem in family law and small claims court. After she saw how many hours she donated she said to herself "Are you crazy?" "I gave the County how much money?"

The family enjoys camping (in a large 5th wheel-she never was the type to "rough it"), traveling to Hawaii and just hanging out together. Her hobbies are motherhood, wifely duties (and all that that implies) and work.

Cindy's special SJCL memories are of her study group: Maggie Singleton (She currently resides in Santa Rosa and works in dependency court for County Counsel, but we are still like peas and carrots.); Alan Junker (He does work for C-CAP and has moved to Berkeley.) and Brian Gupton (He has an independent wheel contract with Kings County.). They were all so worried about how they were going to make it through law school. Cindy did not even acknowledge until her last year that she was going to have to pass a three day test to become a lawyer. While SJCL was in the old building Cindy remembers after taking a final, Tim Cox would go over every part of the test in the parking lot. At some point, they started referring to him as the "parking lot guy". Cindy remem-

Continued on Page 10

bers Mark Suddjian, who never came to class. During a midterm, Justice Ardaiz went up to him and said “Hi, I’m your teacher. Nice to meet you”. Mark was so embarrassed. Cindy also remembers Dean Pearson and Torts class thinking “I am not going to make it through this”. But with help from her study group and Jerry De-Melo’s famous outline, she did. Cindy remembers being a Small Claims Court advisor under the supervision of Denise Kerner. She remembers thinking “This is what I went to law school for. I want to be just like Judge Wapner of the People’s Court!” Cindy recalls being part of the student bar and organizing the first “Race Judicata”. She really enjoyed being active her last year and helping the school and the student body.

In retrospect, Cindy feels her experiences at SJCL were wonderful. She never thought she would make it through. However, everyone at the law school, classmates, and friends were very supportive and always encouraging. Every day she wakes up and praises God for all of his blessings he has given her – a fabulous child, a wonderful husband, a great career, and my own business. “He has blessed me so much.”

Aaron Johnson

After obtaining a Master of Laws Degree in Taxation from Golden Gate University in San Francisco, Aaron worked in Hanford for one year and then for a Monterey County law firm for 5 years. Aaron opened his own practice in 2003. Last year, long time friend and high school classmate, Paul Moncrief, joined him. They created the law firm of Johnson & Moncrief. His firm now has five attorneys who practice in areas of land use, real property, agricultural business/transactions, litigation and education law.

Aaron and his wife, Sarah, have five children between them: Bailey, Nolan, MacKenzie, Zach and Capri (as of

10/24/07). He enjoys playing ice hockey and baseball and coaching football and baseball for his children’s teams.

Aaron is active in his community. He has served on the Board of Trustees of the Hartnell Community College (serving as Chair of the Executive Committee). He has also been active in The Western Stage, Monterey County Hospitality Association, Common Ground Monterey County, the Monterey County Cattlemen’s Association, and the Salinas Rotary.

When asked about his memories of his days at SJCL, he stated: “Learning ALL of the ways of holding title to real property and the rule against perpetuities from Sally Perring...and enjoying it!!! Moving from Shields Ave to Clovis... GREAT move. We were seamlessly integrated into a new building as far as studies went (we always had high quality), but the IT, appearance and feel as a college of law substantially changed for the better. And of course, commuting from Shaver Lake during the first year, while rooming with Patrick Aguirre and Jason Kerlan, then moving back to Fresno rooming with Jim Trevino and Bill Parry, all within about 6 months. Experiences like these prepared me well for changes that occur in running a law practice!”

Karen Spinardi

For the first 5 years after graduation Karen worked for Allen, Polgar & Proietti in Merced. She did business litigation, real estate, estate planning and transactional work. In 2002 she decided she wanted more flexibility, so started her own law firm. Karen has two employees, a secretary and a paralegal. Her emphasis is in business, real estate, employment law and estate planning.

Karen is married to Ed, a local CPA. They have two children. Kimberly, who is 19, earned a full athletic scholarship to play basketball at San Diego

State University where she currently is a sophomore. Son, Jeff, is 16, a junior in high school, a baseball player and straight A student.

In 2003, Karen was awarded Boss of the Year by the Merced County Legal Professional Association. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Community Foundation of Merced County and the Board of Directors for the Merced County Bar Association.

Karen and Ed recently purchased a second home in Aptos, California so they are spending a lot of time doing work on that home. They also enjoy mountain biking, running, reading and attending sporting events.

Karen remembers driving back and forth from Merced to Fresno a total of two hours every day. She can tell you every plant, landmark and sign along the way! She remembers moving from the old site to the new facility. It was nice not having to hang out in the parking lot and inhaling exhaust fumes at break time (maybe that sharpened the memory!). Karen actually had a great time studying in law school, mainly because of her friends... studying endless hours with Brian Sottile trying to master the rule against perpetuities which she has come to find out has little significance other than for a bar exam question (although Sally did a brilliant job of explaining it!)...cramming for their Ardaiz Evidence final with Kim Mayhew and Jay Felkins (translation, Kim and Jay stealing her awesome outline for their own personal use (isn’t that conversion? isn’t that a tort? what is the BARF sentence for that?! Has the statute of limitations run?))... studying real property with Dan Kopfman, Mark Asami, Alan Junker. She misses seeing them all and hopes they are all doing great!

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MIDDLE ROW (L-R) **Jessie Atwal, Amy Guerra, Erik Peterson, and Don Krupens**

FRONT ROW (L-R) **Margie Webb, Shantelle Andrews, Connie Valentino-Parker, and Patrick McManaman**

NOT PICTURED: **Annie Davidian, Maria Hoover, Robirda Lyon, Sara Neuffer, Frankie Rodriguez, and Padrik Ryan**



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