



**SAN JOAQUIN
COLLEGE OF LAW**
2025-2026 Law Catalog



A legal education is a professional education. You will use the substantive legal knowledge and practice skills you develop in law school every day of your life as a lawyer and community leader. Your law school experience is the opportunity of your lifetime to build the foundation of your future successful legal career. Accordingly, you must choose the environment in which you personally will learn the most and grow the most.

At SJCL, your personal growth as a legal practitioner is our foremost objective. This is apparent from the small sections and individualized attention students receive in first-year writing courses to the myriad practice skills courses embodied in SJCL's curriculum. Class sizes are small, averaging 25 people per section, providing you an unparalleled opportunity to interact with your professors and classmates. Faculty have an open-door policy, enabling you regularly to obtain assistance or compare ideas. As grading is not on a curve, faculty and students are all motivated to work as a team for everyone's success.

Opportunities for real-life experience abound in the San Joaquin Valley area. Internship and clinical placements in federal and state courts, district attorney's offices, administrative agencies, legal aid, and private firms are readily available. Moreover, employment opportunities in the area have always been available even when scarce in other markets.

The San Joaquin Valley is the growth area for California's future. Outstanding legal practitioners will be needed. San Joaquin College of Law offers you the opportunity to be a part of that future or any future you choose.

Come grow with us!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janice Pearson". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Janice Pearson
Dean

About SJCL

Individual Attention

At SJCL, the study of law is an intense endeavor, but the skills and doctrines learned will benefit you professionally on a daily basis. Our small class sizes allow students to receive individual attention from faculty. At SJCL, the competition is against oneself and high professional standards – not other students.

Attendance Method

SJCL offers two attendance methods for its Juris Doctor program: the in-person program and the remote option (distance learning) program. Before the start of each semester, students are required to choose to attend classes in one of the methods. For more information, please visit: www.sjcl.edu/onlinejd.

Facilities & Location

SJCL occupies a Mediterranean Renaissance building in a park-like setting in downtown Clovis. The facility consists of seven classrooms, courtroom, library including group and individual study spaces, the New American Legal Clinic, student organizations offices, student lounge, and faculty and staff offices.

Learning Outcomes

The Juris Doctor program at San Joaquin College of Law seeks to create a program of legal education which produces graduates who are highly skilled individuals who can contribute to the development of legal and social institutions and to the integrity of the legal system. To this end, the Faculty has formally adopted a set of measurable Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) which all courses, collectively, are designed to meet. Each professor will articulate in the course syllabus those specific SLOs taught and assessed in the particular course.

- Outcome 1. Demonstrate comprehension of the structures and processes of the U.S. legal system and foundational substantive law.
- Outcome 2. Demonstrate proficiency in legal analysis and problem solving.
- Outcome 3. Demonstrate competence in written and oral communication.
- Outcome 4. Demonstrate mastery of appropriate strategies and technologies to legal research.
- Outcome 5. Recognize and resolve ethical issues.
- Student attainment of the SLOs will be reflected not only in the grades students receive in their individual courses, but may also be separately assessed from time to time by mechanisms independent of individual course assignments and examinations.

Accreditation

San Joaquin College of Law is accredited by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California, permitting SJCL graduates to sit for the California Bar Exam, as well as by the Accrediting Commission for Senior

Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education. SJCL is accredited by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California, giving SJCL its degree-granting authority and qualifying SJCL graduates to take the California Bar Exam and obtain admission to the practice of law in California.

WASC Senior College and University Commission

1080 Marina Village Pkwy, Suite 500, Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 748-9001 • www.wscuc.org

Committee of Bar Examiners, The State Bar of California

180 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 538-2000 • www.calbar.ca.gov

For Consumer Complaints

An individual may contact the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education for review of a complaint. The bureau may be contacted at:

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education

P.O. Box 980818, West Sacramento, CA 95798-0818
(888) 370-7589 • www.bppe.ca.gov

A Unique Student Body

SJCL students don't fit a particular mold. They are simply motivated and ready to learn. Our students represent a variety of ages, background, and experience. If you're seeking a legal career, looking for a change of pace, or wanting to enhance your professional skills – SJCL is for you. Our student body reflects SJCL's progressive and diverse environment.

Abundant Careers

The SJCL course of study combines theoretical knowledge with practical skills. Our clinical opportunities place students in a variety of legal settings, providing students with a stimulating job experience and professional contacts to facilitate a natural transition into the legal field. Most SJCL graduates find employment locally, while some venture into California's most competitive markets. As SJCL is the only law school in the Central Valley our students benefit from the multitude of internships, clerkships and career options without the competition.

Ensuring Success

The staff at SJCL understands that many students have responsibilities that extend beyond law school. Every effort is made to facilitate each student's personal academic success. Dedicated faculty members regularly hold study and review sessions. Students are encouraged to organize study groups – building camaraderie that translates into professional contacts after graduation.

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Curriculum

San Joaquin College of Law offers a flexible program leading to the Juris Doctor degree. The degree can be attained in three, four, or five years. Attainment of the degree requires:

- Completion of 86 semester units: 69 units of required courses and 17 units of electives, not more than four (4) of which may be clinical work. An additional four (4) units of clinical work may be completed in the New American Legal Clinic.
- A cumulative grade point average of 65 or better at the end of spring semester. (Although transfer units from an ABA or state accredited law school may be accepted, only work completed at SJCL is credited toward a student's cumulative GPA).
- A minimum grade of 55 in all required courses.
- Course attendance totaling a minimum of 16 semester units per academic year.
- Completion of all graduation requirements within 5 years of initial enrollment, or 6 years from initial enrollment if the student was granted the right to repeat the first year, unless such limitation violates some state or federal, statutory or regulatory, provision.

Required Courses for Graduation

Course	Units
Advanced Research & Writing	3
Appellate Advocacy	2
Business Organizations I & II.....	4
Civil Procedure I & II	5
Community Property	3
Constitutional Law I & II	6
Contracts I & II.....	6
Criminal Law and Procedure	6
Evidence I & II	6
Legal Methods I & II	4
Moot Court	2
Professional Responsibility	2
Property I & II.....	5
Real Property Drafting	1
Remedies I & II	4
Torts I & II	5
Wills & Trusts I & II.....	5
Total Required Units:	69
Total Elective Units:	17
Total Units:	86

Elective Units

The elective units required for graduation are obtained through elective courses offered primarily during the evening. Elective credit can also be earned via other academic activities, such as external Moot Court competitions, externship work, or the New American Legal Clinic. Study abroad classes offered by ABA accredited law schools or otherwise approved by the Faculty Committee also count for elective credit.

Four-Year Program

SJCL's Four-Year Program is designed for a diverse community. The curriculum is intended to accommodate the needs of working students, parents, commuters, and others who have substantial commitments outside of their studies. The program requires an average of ten classroom hours each week throughout the four years. A student should expect to spend approximately two to three hours in preparation time for each hour of classroom time. The program is designed primarily as a night program, but there are some daytime sections of classes offered depending on demand and availability.

Three-Year Option

Students in the Four-Year Program who complete the first year with a minimum cumulative GPA of 75 can accelerate their studies by transferring to the Three-Year Option. Students who wish to transfer to the Three-Year Option are required to meet with the Director of Student Services, Academic Dean, Dean of Students, or Dean for approval before transferring. If receiving financial aid, the transferring student must also meet with the Director of Financial Aid. The Three-Year Option requires students to take additional courses during the second and third year of the program and complete a minimum of four (4) clinical units. Any outside employment in excess of (20) hours per week is prohibited.

Five-Year Option

Students who must extend their education because of family, work, or other commitments can reduce the per semester course load and complete the program in five years. Students who wish to select this program must first seek authorization from the Director of Student Services, Academic Dean, Dean of Students, or Dean. The Juris Doctor degree must be completed within a total of five years from the time of admission.

Sample Four Year Program

Year 1 – Fall/Spring (20 Units)

Course Title	Units
Civil Procedure I & II.....	5
Contracts I & II.....	6
Legal Methods I & II.....	4
Torts I & II.....	5

Year 2 – Summer (2 Units)

Course Title	Units
Professional Responsibility.....	2

Year 2 – Fall/Spring (20 Units)

Course Title	Units
Business Organizations I & II.....	4
Criminal Law/Criminal Procedure	6
Appellate Advocacy (Fall)	2
Property I & II	5
Real Property Drafting.....	1
Moot Court (Spring)	2

Year 3 – Summer (2 Units)

Course Title	Units
Clinical and/or Electives.....	2

Year 3 – Fall/Spring (21 Units)

Course Title	Units
Constitutional Law I & II.....	6
Evidence I & II	6
Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning I & II	5
Clinical and/or Electives.....	4

Year 4 – Summer (4 Units)

Course Title	Units
Clinical and/or Electives.....	4

Year 4 – Fall/Spring (17 Units)

Course Title	Units
Advanced Research & Writing	3
Community Property	3
Remedies I & II	4
Clinical and/or Electives.....	7

Sample Three Year Option

Year 1 – Fall/Spring (20 Units)

Course Title	Units
Civil Procedure I & II.....	5
Contracts I & II.....	6
Legal Methods I & II.....	4
Torts I & II.....	5

Year 2 – Summer (6 Units)

Course Title	Units
Professional Responsibility.....	2
Clinical and/or Electives	4

Year 2 – Fall/Spring (26 Units)

Course Title	Units
Business Organizations I & II.....	4
Criminal Law/Criminal Procedure	6
Evidence I & II	6
Appellate Advocacy (Fall)	2
Moot Court (Spring)	2
Property I & II.....	5
Real Property Drafting.....	1

You must have a cumulative GPA of 75 or higher after completing 20 units to transfer into the Three Year Option. The Juris Doctor degree must be completed within a total of five years from the time of admission.

Year 3 – Summer (6 Units)

Course Title	Units
Clinical and/or Electives.....	6

Year 3 – Fall/Spring (28 Units)

Course Title	Units
Advanced Research & Writing	3
Community Property	3
Constitutional Law I & II.....	6
Remedies I & II	4
Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning I & II	5
Clinical and/or Electives.....	7

Clinics & Externships

In-House Clinics

New American Legal Clinic

Students enrolled in the clinic, under clinical director supervision, take on all major aspects of representing a client before the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), including interviewing clients, preparing forms, analyzing and arguing complex legal issues, and attending USCIS applicant interviews. The Clinic also has a classroom component in which students learn the basics of immigration, citizenship, and laws protecting immigrant victims of human trafficking and family violence.

BREN Clinic

Students enrolled in the BREN Clinic will take on all major aspects of representing a client's special education interests under externship director supervision including conducting client interviews, analyzing complex legal issues and applicable evidence, and providing written and oral advocacy services at Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings, settlement and ADR conferences, and due process hearings. The Clinic also has a classroom component in which students will learn how to use the legal tools contained in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to advocate for individual remedies.

Externships

Legal work heightens a student's understanding of class content, enhances practical skills and introduces the student to the "real world" of law practice. SJCL provides and encourages a variety of placement opportunities. Students are eligible for externship study upon completion of the first year of law school.

Established placement opportunities to obtain legal experience and clinical units are available with numerous governmental agencies and private law offices. Many of these are ongoing, but the number of students that a firm or agency can accommodate is limited. A student alternatively may create an individual clinical, where he or she works under the supervision of an attorney, with the approval of the Dean of Students. Information on clinical placements may be obtained from the Director of Student Services.

The placement process is like applying for a professional position. The student should submit a resume along with a personalized cover

letter to the contact person. Typically a writing sample is also needed, so the student should have one ready. The student should register for the clinical units through the admission/registrar's office after he or she has been selected for the position. For further information regarding the placements see the Director of Student Services, the Academic Dean, or the Dean of Students.

Disclaimer: San Joaquin College of Law does not affirm or represent that any particular posting or opportunity for an off-campus, non-SJCL internship, externship, job, or other placement, whether paid or unpaid, complies with The Fair Labor Standards Act and/or other applicable Federal and State Labor and Employment Laws.

Practical Training of Law Students Program, or "Certified" Law Students

Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 9.42, the State Bar of California's Practical Training of Law Students (PTLS) program certifies law students to provide limited legal services under the supervision of an attorney. To be eligible to apply for certification a student must have completed one full year of law school (270 hours). The student must also be enrolled in and attending, or have successfully completed, Evidence and Civil Procedure courses. For complete rules see the California Bar website at www.calbar.ca.gov.

Academic Enrichment

Appellate Advocacy & Moot Court

Appellate Advocacy supplements Moot Court and is a separate, 2-unit required course that focuses on appellate-level legal writing. Appellate Advocacy/Moot Court is a two-semester requirement for all students.

The spring Moot Court course requires students to orally argue the topic assigned during their Appellate Advocacy course in the fall in an intramural competition. These arguments are judged by local judges, attorneys, faculty, and alumni.

SJCL participates in statewide and national Moot Court competitions and has distinguished itself among teams from top ABA institutions. Those who go on to these competitions receive additional coaching from the Moot Court professors and experts in the community.

New American Legal Clinic

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BREN Clinic

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Teaching and Research Assistantships

Students may be invited by faculty to act as teaching or research assistants. Teaching assistants may be asked to help the professor prepare for class, help evaluate student work or conduct supplemental class sessions, small sections, etc. as directed by the professor. Research assistants typically will pursue research on a particular topic or subject matter as directed by the professor and report, in writing, in a format requested by the professor. Students can earn elective units for teaching or research assistantships. Students who qualify for federal financial aid may alternatively receive hourly compensation for their work through federal work-study. Teaching or research assistant positions DO NOT qualify as clinical experience and may not be used to satisfy any required clinical units.

Study Abroad

SJCL does not sponsor a study abroad program, but students can request approval for credit in a program offered through another institution. Contact the Dean of Students several months in advance to submit a request for approval to the SJCL Faculty Committee. Students can receive elective credit on a pass/fail basis for approved study abroad programs. Students seeking financial aid to cover tuition costs must contact the Director of Financial Aid at least two months in advance of the start of any study abroad program.

Academics

Grading Standards

San Joaquin College of Law employs a rigorous, objective grading policy. Grading is NOT on a curve. Strict academic standards assure students that they possess the training and discipline necessary for the legal profession.

Course grades are based primarily upon final examinations. These are administered under a system that ensures the student's anonymity.

Some professors also consider outside assignments, class attendance, and class preparation in grading. The standards used by each professor are announced at the beginning of the course.

Numerical Grading

All courses are graded numerically, with the exception of Law Review, clinical programs, independent study, and some skills courses for which a grade of PASS or FAIL will be entered.

Grading Scale

- 85 – 100 Excellent
- 75 – 84 Good
- 65 – 74 Adequate
- 55 – 64 Inadequate, But Passing
- Below 55 Not Passing

A grade of 55 is the minimum passing grade. No credit is given for courses in which the student has earned a grade of FAIL (a grade lower than 55), or has failed to sit for any

required examination. A student who fails a required course is required to repeat the course. The Law School does not permit any course to be challenged by examination.

Satisfactory Progress

All first year students must pass (a passing grade is 55 or better) at least two first-year core courses and attain a 60 cumulative GPA to be eligible to advance to the second semester. First-year core courses are Torts, Civil Procedure, and Contracts. Students who do not meet both criteria will be academically excluded. No probation will be granted to such students to advance to the second semester.

For all students, a cumulative GPA of 65 or better thereafter is required for advancement to each subsequent year in law school and for graduation. Each student's cumulative GPA is calculated annually, at the end of the Spring semester, for purposes of advancement to the next year in law school. Academic disqualifications are determined at that time. Except under extraordinary circumstances, a student must complete the program within five (5) years of initial enrollment. See the sections on "Academic Disqualification- Probation Status" and "Juris Doctor Degree Requirements" for additional information.

Academic Disqualification – Probation

First year students who are disqualified for failure to attain a cumulative GPA of 65 at the end of Spring Semester may petition the Faculty Committee to continue on Probation or to restart the program. Advanced students who are disqualified for failure to maintain a cumulative GPA of 65 may petition the Faculty Committee for Probation. Students granted probation have until the end of the next Spring Semester to raise their cumulative GPA to 65. Except under extraordinary circumstances no student shall be granted more than one probationary period. Students receiving federal financial aid and/or veteran's benefits can only receive such aid and benefits during one probationary period.

Graduation with Distinction

The degree of Juris Doctor "With Distinction" will be awarded to any student who completes the degree requirements with a cumulative GPA of 78 or better.

Graduation with Honors

The degree of Juris Doctor "With Honors" will be awarded to any student who completes the degree requirements with a cumulative GPA of 82 or better.

Graduation with High Honors

The degree of Juris Doctor "With High Honors" will be awarded to any student who satisfies the following requirements:

1. Completion of the degree requirements with a cumulative GPA of 85 or better,
OR
2. Completion of the degree requirements with a cumulative GPA of 82 or better, and:

- a. Preparation, with no more than two (2) other students, of at least one moot court brief for any national or regional competition, provided that the SJCL Academic Administration deem such student's contribution to the brief to be of high quality.
OR
- b. Preparation of a Law Review article accepted for publication by an academic law journal, provided that the SJCL Academic Administration find the academic law journal to be a recognized, high-quality law journal.

Attendance and Preparedness Policy

Class attendance and preparation are crucial for success in law school. The California Committee of Bar Examiners requires that a student must attend at least 80% of the scheduled sessions of a course to receive credit. To receive credit for attendance, students must attend classes in the modality (remote or in-person) that they have chosen before the start of the semester. However, students are permitted a number of flex days in which they can get attendance credit for attending classes in the other, non-chosen modality. Attendance in the non-chosen modality will result in an absence after all flex days are used.

Students are permitted the following number of absences and flex days per course, per semester:

Number of Course Sessions	Permitted Absences	Flex Days
1-3 sessions.....	None.....	0
4-7 sessions	1 absence	2
8-11 sessions	2 absences	3
12-16 sessions.....	3 absences	4
17-22 sessions.....	4 absences	5
23-27 sessions	5 absences	6
28-32 sessions	6 absences	8

Upon exceeding the permitted number of absences, the student will be automatically dropped from the course. The student will receive a refund of the unearned tuition consistent with SJCL's dropping a class refund policy. For more details, see the SJCL Student Handbook.

Leave of Absence

A student may be granted an administrative leave of absence of up to one year. No leave

of absence will be granted which extends a student's studies beyond five years, after beginning the study of law. A student contemplating taking a leave of absence should seek both academic and financial aid counseling.

The Dean's permission is required for a leave of absence to be granted. In order to be granted a leave of absence the student:

- Must be in good academic standing,
AND
- Must make a written request to the Dean, explaining the reason(s) for the requested leave of absence. The request must indicate the date the leave is to commence and end, and be signed by the student. If the request is not made prior to the proposed commencement date, the student should also explain the delay in making the written request. The Dean's decision is final.

Student Honor Code

SJCL strives for the highest standards in ethics, professionalism and integrity. Upon admission, each student is expected to act with utmost honesty, fairness and concern for his/her professional reputation and the reputation of the school. A student who witnesses any unethical conduct, as defined in the Student Handbook, by another student should promptly report such conduct to his/her professor or a member of the SJCL administration. Any attempt to retaliate against a person reporting an Honor Code violation is strictly prohibited.

Career Services

Career Services assists students and alumni by informing them of career options and job search strategies, and connecting them with potential employers. Career Services provides career counseling, résumé reviews, and mock interviews along with an extensive resource library and programs throughout the year designed to help students narrow their areas of interest. Additionally, Career Services maintains an on-line listing of employment opportunities called Careers at sjcl.edu.

Students are encouraged to participate in clinical study which heightens a student's understanding of class content, enhances practical skills and introduces the student to the "real world" of law. Career Services assists in the placement of students in a wide variety of positions ranging from judicial clerkships to misdemeanor prosecutorial teams. Students are also encouraged to participate in uncompensated work, beginning their professional obligation to engage in pro bono work.

Academics

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Career Services

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Law Librarian

Jodie Howard

Interim Law Library Director
jhoward@sjcl.edu

Cynthia Robinson

Supervisory Librarian
crobinson@sjcl.edu

Library Hours

Except during holidays,
semester breaks, and
examination weeks library
hours are as follows:

Monday - Thursday
9:00AM - 10:00PM

Friday & Saturday
9:00AM - 5:00PM

Sunday
10:00AM - 6:00PM

The Library is available
only to faculty, students,
and alumni of SJCL.

Law Library

SJCL's Law Library includes law reviews, annotated codes, appellate court reports and Federal and California collections. The resources available include the principal secondary sources and a growing collection of practice materials.

The SJCL Library is a member of a large interlibrary loan networks. Virtually any law journal, law review, manuscript or treatise can be accessed through SJCL's library.

In addition, hundreds of thousands of volumes are available through web-based subscriptions. Students have unlimited access to HeinOnline, CEB OnLaw, LexisNexis, Westlaw, and our Digital Library. They are available to students via the internet twenty-four hours a day, on or off campus.

The library has study rooms that students can reserve, along with study carrels, study nooks, and large and small tables available for individual or group study throughout the library.

The "Rule of Law" Collection

The "Rule of Law" collection is a gift from James K. and Carol Sellers Herbert. It includes works on jurisprudence, philosophy, and history. It is designed to enable students to explore the classic writings on the crucial role of law in a civilized society.

The Peace Collection

The Peace Collection was donated to the SJCL Library by Doug Noll, the Chair of SJCL's Board of Trustees. The original collection consisted of 165 titles, covering a range of subjects and all have a common thread of Peace and/or non-violent conflict resolution. Titles include the subjects of religion, philosophy, sociology, history, psychology, negotiation, mediation and law.

The Winton Collection

The J. Martin Winton Collection on Land Development, Water Use, and the Public Trust Doctrine was donated to San Joaquin College of Law in 1988. The Collection represents Winton's lifelong interest and commitment to preserving the natural resources of the San Joaquin Valley and includes books, reports, records, maps, photographs, and personal papers on San Joaquin wildlife and water development. The Collection, which has been archived and indexed, is housed in our Winton Special Collections Room and is available by appointment only.



Full Time Faculty



Janice L. Pearson

J.D., University of California, Berkeley

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Prior to her 1985 appointment as Dean of San Joaquin College of Law, Dean Pearson served as Staff Attorney, Managing Attorney and Interim Director of Fresno-Merced Counties Legal Services, Inc. (1976-1984). Dean Pearson teaches Torts. During her tenure as dean, she was a finalist in the YWCA/Fresno Bee Outstanding Business/Professional Woman of the Year Competition (1990) and received the Fresno Women Lawyers' Justice Pauline Hanson Award (1992) and the Fresno County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award (1993). She also was awarded the Soroptimist Women Helping Women Award (2001).



Justin B. Atkinson

J.D., University of Utah

M.A., University of Utah

B.A., University of Utah

Professor Atkinson teaches Contracts and serves as Academic Dean. Prior to joining the SJCL faculty in 2010, Professor Atkinson practiced general litigation with the Fresno firm of McCormick, Barstow, Sheppard, Wayte and Carruth LLP. Later, Professor Atkinson joined the Office of the Fresno County Counsel. At County Counsel, his focus was civil litigation with an emphasis in public entity liability. His practice included extensive motion and trial work, as well as appellate work, at both the state and federal level. In law school he was an executive editor of the Utah Journal of International Law, and published work on topics related to international law and literature. Before attending law school, Professor Atkinson taught Spanish and Latin-American literature at the University of Utah.



Linda Barreto

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law

B.A., University of California, Merced

Professor Barreto is the Director of the New American Legal Clinic and teaches Immigration Law. Prior to joining the full-time faculty at SJCL, she worked defending the rights of immigrant children as a staff attorney for the non-profit organization, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) and as an associate attorney for Lazaro Salazar Law, Inc. where she remains Of Counsel assisting with complex immigration cases. She graduated from San Joaquin College of Law where she was honoured various Witkin Awards for Academic Excellence. Ms. Barreto is licensed in California and is admitted to practice in the Executive Office for Immigration Review (immigration court) in all locations across the United States and is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, The American Bar Association and the Fresno County Bar Association. She is fluent in both English and Spanish.



Christine A. Goodrich

J.D., University of California, Los Angeles

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Professor Goodrich, joining the Full-Time Faculty in 2010, is currently teaching Torts. Since 1989, she has taught courses as an Adjunct Faculty member in Legal Process, Advanced Research and Writing and Research and Writing. Professor Goodrich has for over 20 years practiced law with Lozano Smith, and is currently Of Counsel in the Fresno office assisting with public construction law matters. Before practicing with Lozano Smith, Professor Goodrich represented private clients in business litigation and creditor bankruptcy proceedings at Jory, Peterson and Sagaser and during law school externed with the Honorable Robert J. Kelleher at the Federal District Court, Central District of California.



Denise M. Kerner

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law
M.A., California State University, Fresno
B.A., California State University, Fresno

Professor Kerner served as a Deputy Fresno City Attorney from 1985-89 drafting, negotiating, reviewing and interpreting contracts for all city departments. She served as a Research Attorney for the Fifth District Court of Appeal (1983-85). Professor Kerner has been a full-time faculty member at SJCL since March of 1990, teaching Civil Procedure I & II and Professional Responsibility.



Jeffrey G. Purvis

J.D., University of California, Davis
B.A., University of California, Davis

In 1993, Professor Purvis was selected as the James K. and Carol Sellars Herbert Professor of Constitutional Law at San Joaquin College of Law. Professor Purvis teaches Constitutional Law and various constitutional law electives and taught Business Organizations for many years. He has been Faculty Chair and Chairperson of the Faculty Committee since 2007. Prior to joining SJCL's full-time faculty he served as a senior research attorney for the Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District of the State of California from 1983-1985, and served as a research attorney for the Superior Courts of Fresno (1982-1983) and Sonoma (1980-1981) Counties. He was editor in chief of the BarPassers bar review course from 1985 to 1990.



Logan Tennerelli

J.D., University of Chicago Law School
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Professor Tennerelli was hired as Dean of Students at San Joaquin College of Law in 2020 and currently teaches Civil Procedure I and II. She has also taught Legal Methods I and II and Legal Process at the law school and is the proud recipient of the SJCL Student Bar Association Full-Time Faculty of the Year Award for both 2021 and 2022. She is also an adjunct professor and former pre-law counselor at Fresno City College, where she has taught courses on Law and Democracy and Civic Engagement and Leadership.

Prior to working in higher education, Dean Tennerelli practiced law at Goldberg Kohn in Chicago, IL. She graduated from the University of Chicago Law School with honors and was a member of The University of Chicago Law Review. During her time in law school, she received the Lord, Bissell & Brook Prize for Outstanding Brief in the law school's moot court competition, worked as a Public Interest Law Fellow for the American Civil Liberties Union, and volunteered at the Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic for the Employment Discrimination Project.



Andreas Borgeas

Scholar-in-Residence
J.D., Georgetown Law School
M.A.L., Harvard University
B.A., Northern Arizona University

Professor Andreas Borgeas is a Scholar in Residence and has been a member of the SJCL faculty since 2007. He received his graduate education at Harvard University, Georgetown University Law Center and Panteion University of Political Sciences. Following his legal education, Borgeas served as a judicial law clerk at the US Court for the Eastern District of California. He is a member of the bar in California and Washington, DC, holds a certificate from The Hague Academy of International Law, and in private practice specialized in international law at Luce Forward. Borgeas was a Fulbright Scholar, Marshall Memorial Fellow, Visiting Fellow at the Hellenic Centre for European Studies, Contributing Fellow for the Woodrow Wilson Int'l Center for Scholars, and a Policy Specialist Fellow at the US Embassy in the Republic of Kazakhstan. (Full bio on website)

Adjunct Faculty

Robert C. Abrams

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law
B.S., University of California, Berkeley

Professor Abrams is the owner of the Law Office of Robert C Abrams which practices in the areas of Real Estate Law, Civil Litigation, Family Law, Wills and Trusts. Prior to opening his firm in 2016 he worked in the Fresno City Attorney's office and another local law firm. Professor Abrams has been a Licensed Real Estate Broker since 1980 and is a licensed General Contractor. He has over 10 years in commercial banking, where he was involved in real estate finance, and over 20 years running a company involved in many aspects of real estate including, Construction and Development, Property Management, Inspections, Sales and Marketing. He is a former President of the Fresno Association of Realtors, former Board Chair of the Community Housing Counsel and former Board Chair of Habitat for Humanity Fresno for whom he is currently general counsel.

Honorable Ana de Alba

J.D., Berkeley Law
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

In October 2018, Governor Brown appointed Professor de Alba to the Fresno Superior Court bench. Prior to her appointment, Judge de Alba was a partner at the law firm of Lang, Richert & Patch in Fresno where she focused her practice on employment, business, tort, and construction litigation. During her time at Lang, Richert & Patch, Judge de Alba also worked tirelessly to promote the provision of Pro Bono services to the underserved.

Miiko Anderson

J.D. John F. Kennedy University, School of Law
A.A., Laney College

Professor Anderson is a certified Criminal Specialist and Senior Deputy District Attorney at the Fresno County District Attorney's Office. As a specialty unit prosecutor, she prosecutes Gang, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking Cases. She has taken over 60 cases to jury trial and gained convictions and lengthy sentences on some of Fresno County's most violent offenders. Professor Anderson also serves on the Board of Directors for Breaking the Chains, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing resources to survivors of human trafficking. She has received multiple awards for her tireless efforts to prosecute some of the most challenging cases in Fresno County.

Lawrence M. Artenian

J.D., University of San Francisco, School of Law
B.A., Harvard University

Professor Artenian returned to private practice in 2010 after 19 years as a member of the full-time faculty at SJCL. He has taught Contracts, Remedies, Real Estate Secured

Transactions and a variety of other courses. His current work with the Fresno firm of Wagner & Jones emphasizes employment and class action litigation. Previously, Professor Artenian practiced in civil litigation with the San Francisco firm of Dooley, Anderson, Berg, Pardini, Johnson & Ziegler and in business transactions with McCormick, Barstow, Sheppard, Wayte & Carruth in Fresno. He also served a six month internship at the United States Department of Labor in Boston, Massachusetts, adjudicating compensation claims and preparing studies concerning industrial cases of hearing loss, asbestosis and mesothelioma among civilian employees at military shipyards and aircraft facilities.

Adam Baiza

J.D., Cabrillo Pacific College of Law
B.S., Cabrillo Pacific College of Law

Professor Baiza is the owner of the Law Office of Adam Baiza where he practices Juvenile Dependency Law representing children in CPS cases in Tulare County. He is currently an adjunct professor at the College of the Sequoias where he has Business Law, Introduction to Business, and numerous Paralegal courses for 28 years. Prior to dependency law Mr. Baiza worked in the Tulare County District Attorney's Office as the Mental Health Prosecuting Attorney. He previously practiced business law, elder law, mental health law, and estate planning in the partnership of Baiza and Baiza. In 1991 Mr. Baiza was appointed by the Tulare County Superior Court to be the Tulare County Mental Health Hearing Officer, a role he held for 10 years.

Arthur G. Baggett, Jr.

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law
M.S., Antioch College
B.S., University of Cincinnati

Professor Baggett has been the attorney member of the California State Water Resources Control Board since 1999. The Board is charged with protecting, preserving and restoring all California waters while providing for the equitable use of the state's surface waters. Prior to his appointment by Governor Davis, he practiced law in Mariposa, California. He served two terms as a county supervisor, and as adjunct faculty for the University of California's Sierra Institute, the Yosemite Institute, and California State University, Fresno.

Joseph Barton

J.D., University of Notre Dame
B.A., University of California, Davis

Professor Barton is a federal prosecutor in Fresno. He prosecutes public corruption, financial fraud, mail crimes, tax crimes, and theft of government property, among other crimes. Prior to becoming a prosecutor, professor Barton was a False Claims Act, trade secret, and white collar defense lawyer at a law firm in Los Angeles. He has both federal and California state trial and appellate experience.

Marsha Baum

J.D., SUNY at Buffalo

M.S.L.S., Columbia University

B.A., History, University of Rochester

Professor Baum is currently the Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs in the Provost's Office at Fresno State. She joined Fresno State after serving as a full-time tenured professor of law at the University of New Mexico School of Law in Albuquerque, where she taught Property Law, Intellectual Property, Animal Law, Commercial Law, and Legal Ethics. She previously taught in the law schools at the University of Minnesota, University of Connecticut, and the University of South Carolina as well as serving as visiting scholar or visiting professor at the University of Tasmania, University of North Adelaide, Sydney Law School, and Flinders University in Australia. Her research interests include the intersection of animal law and disaster law.

Barry J. Bennett

J.D., New York University Law School

B.A., University of Rochester

Professor Bennett is a partner in the law firm of Bennett & Sharpe. In 1975-76 he was Regional Director of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board in Fresno. Prior to entering private practice, he was staff attorney for the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (1974-75), a member of the New York Office of Labor Relations (1973-74), and staff member and attorney for the International Garment Worker's Union (1968-73). Professor Bennett has been a contributing editor for A Dictionary of Arbitration (1970) and California Administrative Mandamus for Continuing Education of the California State Bar.

Honorable Stanley A. Boone

J.D., McGeorge School of Law

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Judge Stanley A. Boone was appointed to the federal bench in December 2012 to the Eastern District of California as a United States Magistrate Judge. Prior to his appointment, Judge Boone served for almost twenty-four years in the United States Department of Justice in a variety of roles, last serving as the Chief of the White Collar Crime Unit in the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office in Fresno from 2010 to 2012. From 2009-2010, he served as White Collar Crime Coordinator for the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. and from 1996 to 2009 as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Criminal Division in Fresno. From 1989 to 1995, he worked for the United States Trustee program as a paralegal specialist and student certified attorney. In 1995-96 he served as law clerk to the Hon. Peter A. Nowinski, U.S. Magistrate Judge. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley in Legal Studies with an Asian Studies minor. He received his law degree from Pacific-McGeorge School of Law receiving American Jurisprudence awards in Constitutional Law and Criminal Procedure and was the Valedictorian of his evening class.

Mark Broughton

J.D., Western State University College of Law, San Diego

B.A. University of California, San Diego

Over four decades professor Broughton has tried approximately 300 criminal cases ranging from petty thefts, violent felonies, to capital murder cases. He practiced law in San Diego for 17 years, for many years was the Chief Criminal Defense Attorney for the indigent conflict defense firm in Fresno, and now leads a small firm specializing in criminal defense. He has worked with the Northern California Innocence Project to exonerate two people who were wrongfully convicted and spent decades in prison. He is a criminal law specialist certified by the State Bar of California, Chair of the Criminal Law Section of the Fresno County Bar Association, member of the Criminal Law Section of the California Law Association, Member of the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, National Association for Criminal Justice, Federal Bar Association, and is currently a California Supreme Court Appointee to the State Bar Board of Trustees.

Darcy Brown

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law

B.S., California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Professor Brown is an attorney specializing in housing law, land and water use policy, and environmental compliance. She has represented clients in unlawful detainer actions and provided continuing education to members of the Real Property Section of the Fresno County Bar Association. Over the past 15 years, she has engaged in long-range land and water use planning efforts throughout the San Joaquin Valley on behalf of a variety of organizations. Professor Brown was Valedictorian of the 2018 graduating class of SJCL, where she earned 12 Witkin Awards for Academic Excellence and was a George A. Hopper Moot Court Oral Argument Finalist. She has a bachelor of science degree in forestry and natural resources.

David M. Camenson

J.D., Indiana University, Bloomington

M.B.A., Indiana University, Bloomington

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Professor Camenson is a solo practitioner, emphasizing in general business, estate planning and real estate, and tax matters relating thereto.

Rachel Cartier

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Professor Cartier is a Senior Deputy District Attorney at the Madera County District Attorney's Office. Over the course of her career, she has prosecuted criminal cases ranging from infractions to special circumstance homicide cases. She is currently assigned to the Madera Narcotics Enforcement Team where she prosecutes Madera County's largest drug trafficking organizations.

Daniel E. Casas

J.D., University of California, Los Angeles
B.S., California State University, Fresno

Daniel E. Casas is the Chief Legal Counsel to Table Mountain Rancheria's Tribal Government, Table Mountain Casino and Table Mountain Rancheria Tribal Gaming Commission. Mr. Casas has developed a level of expertise in the area of Federal Indian Law and Tribal Sovereign Immunity in his ten plus years at Table Mountain Rancheria. His opinions and advice are frequently sought by members of our state and federal legislators who desire an unbiased assessment of the current state and trends in the field Federal Indian Law. Mr. Casas also frequently participates in panel discussions with local and state officials in topics that affect or pertains to the development and implementation of successful Government-to-Government communication and programs.

Phillip H. Cherney

J.D., Lincoln Law School, San Jose
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Professor Cherney has over four decades of trial and appellate experience in state and federal courts in civil and criminal litigation. For thirty-five years he focused his law practice on criminal defense representation, tried twenty murder cases, including six capital cases, and he was appointed by the California Supreme Court as lead counsel in six death penalty appeals and habeas corpus proceedings. Retiring from active practice in 2019, he has been a consultant to public defender agencies and private counsel in death penalty litigation, testified as an expert witness on professional standards and practices for defense counsel in death penalty trials, and he has published scholarly articles on select topics in criminal law.

David P. Chiappetta

J.D., University of Washington School of Law
B.A., Willamette University

Professor Chiappetta is a partner at Perkins Coie LLP, an international law firm with over 1,100 lawyers. With over twenty five years of legal experience, his practice primarily involves the litigation of complex commercial disputes, with a focus on antitrust and unfair business practice claims, class actions, contract and partnership disputes, and intellectual property matters. Professor Chiappetta also has extensive experience counseling clients on issues relating to antitrust law and trade regulation, and has represented clients before federal and state government enforcement agencies in relation to mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures, and civil and criminal investigations. He has served as an international enforcer, spending four years of his legal career in Australia prosecuting cases on behalf of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. While attending the University of Washington School of Law, Professor Chiappetta was a member of the Moot Court Honor Board, and he was named to the Order of the Coif on graduation. He is admitted to practice in California, New York, the District of Columbia, and Australia.

Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin

J.D., McGeorge School of Law
B.A., California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Professor Conklin was appointed to the Fresno County Superior Court in October of 2005. Prior thereto, he was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office in Fresno. From 1985 – 1990, he served as a Deputy District Attorney in the Kern County District Attorney's Office.

Alice M. Dostalova-Busick

J.D., University of San Diego School of Law
B.S.F.S., Georgetown University

Professor Busick is the owner of Dostalova Law, a law firm practicing in the areas of Wills, Trusts, Trust Administration and Probate. While currently focusing solely on estate planning and administration matters, Professor Busick has represented clients in a variety of civil matters, including trust litigation and mortgage banking litigation.

Matthew Farmer

J.D., University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
B.A., California State University, Sacramento

Professor Farmer is an attorney with Littler Mendelson. His practice consists solely of representation of employers in various civil and agency matters, including suits for wrongful termination, sexual harassment, and discrimination.

Robert A. Fuentes

J.D., Yale Law School
M.P.A., Harvard Kennedy School
B.A., Stanford University

Professor Fuentes is an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California. Previously, he served as a staff attorney at the U.S. District Court in Fresno. Professor Fuentes has also worked in private practice, representing individuals in civil rights, employment, and immigration matters. Prior to law school, he worked as a legislative staffer in the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Fuentes currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the State Center Community College District.

Justin J. Gilio

J.D., Harvard Law School
B.S.C., Santa Clara University

Professor Gilio is an Assistant United States Attorney in Fresno, California. He is part of the Narcotics and Violent Crime Unit and prosecutes a variety of cases including large-scale domestic and international drug and firearms trafficking offenses. After law school, professor Gilio started his career in civil practice in Los Angeles, CA, focusing primarily on complex commercial litigation and legal malpractice. In 2017, he spent a year clerking for the Honorable John K. Bush, United States Circuit Court Judge for the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Upon completion of his clerkship, professor Gilio joined the U.S. Attorney's Office as a prosecutor.

Jaskaran Gill

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law

B.S., University of California, Los Angeles

Professor Gill is an attorney at Wilkins, Drolshagen & Czesinski, LLP, and concentrates his practice in the areas of personal injury law and civil litigation. Prior to joining Wilkins, Drolshagen & Czesinski, LLP, professor Gill practiced in the areas of employment law, workers' compensation law, and public entity law. Professor Gill obtained his bachelor's degree in Neuroscience from UCLA and graduated from San Joaquin College of Law in 2017. While in law school, professor Gill externed at the United State District Court for the Eastern District of California and was a member San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review.

Hon. Erica Grosjean

J.D., Harvard Law School

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Judge Grosjean was appointed in October 2015 to the Eastern District of California as a U.S. Magistrate Judge. She presides over various federal cases involving such issues as prisoner civil rights, employment discrimination, social security, Americans with Disabilities Act, and habeas corpus. She also handles criminal pretrial matters as well as settlement conferences.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Grosjean worked as a partner for the law firm Quinn Emanuel Urquhart and Sullivan, in New York and Los Angeles, where she litigated across a wide range of areas of law, including structured finance, patent infringement, contract, antitrust, misappropriation, insurance, securities, unfair competition, constitutional law, and fraudulent transfer.

Judge Grosjean also clerked for the late Ninth Circuit Judge Herbert Y.C. Choy.

David J. Guy

J.D., University of Colorado School of Law

B.S., San Diego State University

Professor Guy is the President of the Northern California Water Association, where he represents numerous water districts and local governments in the Sacramento Valley. He was previously the Chief Executive Officer for the Yosemite Association, a non-profit association dedicated to connecting people to Yosemite National Park. He has represented public, private and nonprofit clients on all aspect of natural resources law and policy, including water, land use, and real property, including serving Of Counsel to Somach, Simmons and Dunn, a natural resources law firm with offices in Sacramento and Fresno, and the California Farm Bureau Federation. He has advised the last three Governors on California water policy and he has been appointed to serve on numerous commissions and boards. He has written two dozen articles on water and natural resources law and policy in various law reviews and other professional journals.

Jason P. Hamm

J.D., University of Southern California

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Professor Hamm is the General Counsel of Valley Yellow Pages. Prior to this he was an associate with Lang, Richert & Patch (2000-2005) where he specialized in employment and business litigation. He was a staff member of the Southern California Law Review.

Alicia L. Hinton

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law

M.S., Fresno Pacific University

B.A., San Jose State University

B.A., San Francisco State University

Alicia Hinton founded the Law Office of A.L. Hinton which is the only firm known to practice solely in the area of consumer protection law in the Central Valley. Prior to opening her firm in 2016, she worked as an associate attorney for the consumer law firm of Kemnitzer, Barron, and Krieg, and as a volunteer with the Central California Legal Services. She represents consumers in both California and Federal courts, handling individual and class action cases against unfair and deceptive business practices. She has been influential in legislative change to improve California's consumer protection laws, and has a published law journal article on improving consumer rights in the airline industry. Ms. Hinton is a member of the National Association of Consumer Advocates and the Consumer Attorneys of California. She speaks regularly on the subject of consumer protection law, both locally and nationally, and mentors new consumer protection attorneys throughout the state.

Ray Horng

J.D., University of Michigan Law School

B.A., Yale University

Professor Horng has served as a law clerk to the Hon.s Anthony W. Ishii and Oliver W. Wanger, United States District Judges for the Eastern District of California, Fresno Division.

Kathi Kesselman

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law

B.A., City University of New York

Professor Kesselman has maintained a solo practice, emphasizing family law, wills, and probate since 1980. She was a partner in the firm of Lusk and Kesselman and also worked for Bennett and Ostroff. Professor Kesselman has taught in the Department of Education at California State University, Fresno.

Stefanie J. Krause

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law

B.A., California State University, Fresno

Professor Krause is a solo practitioner focusing on estate planning, probate, and conservatorships. She previously worked at the Law Office of Sarah A. Schmidt, where she focused on insurance defense and animal law. She is Co-Founder and Treasurer of the Central Valley Coalition for Animals, a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation.

Andrew S. Kucera

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law
M.B.A., California State University, Fresno
B.A., San Diego State University

Professor Kucera has been teaching at SJCL since 2013. In 2014 and 2017, he received the Adjunct Faculty of the Year award. Professor Kucera is also in private practice in Clovis, CA, where he focuses on real estate and business law. Professor Kucera is admitted to practice in all California courts, and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of CA. Professor Kucera was Valedictorian of the 2013 graduating class of SJCL, where he obtained his Juris Doctorate with High Honors. At SJCL, he received the Dean's Scholarship and 17 Witkin Awards for Academic Excellence. In 2005, Professor Kucera obtained a MBA from the Craig School of Business at California State University, Fresno. In 1997, Professor Kucera obtained a BA, Cum Laude, with Distinction in Economics, and a minor in Real Estate, from San Diego State University.

Michael R. Linden

J.D., John F. Kennedy University School of Law
B.A., California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo

Professor Linden is a Partner at Aleshire & Wynder in Fresno, where his practice is focused on assisting local government clients, including the City of Fresno and the Del Rey Community Services District, with both litigation and transactional matters. From 2016-2023, Professor Linden was a Senior Counsel at Lozano Smith in Fresno, where he served as the City Attorney for the City of Dos Palos, as well as an assistant City Attorney for the cities of Clovis, Lemoore, and Chowchilla, and a Deputy County Counsel for the County of Madera. Professor Linden also served as general counsel for the South Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency and County of Madera Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Mr. Linden was previously employed at both Fresno County Counsel and Merced County Counsel, where he handled both litigation and transactional matters for various departments, including the Sheriff's Office. From 2002-2010, Professor Linden was an attorney at Weakley, Arendt & McGuire in Fresno, where he represented numerous public entities and employees in civil litigation. From 2001-2002, Professor Linden was an attorney at Roger, Scott & Helmer in Redwood City, where he represented land developers and contractors in construction defect litigation.

Kelly Liu

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law
B.A., University of California, Merced

Professor Liu is a research attorney for the Civil Unlimited Division of the Fresno County Superior Court. Her day-to-day consists of researching and analyzing legal issues raised in motions, petitions, and applications to the court, and providing a summary of her findings and recommendations for the judge.

John Malmo

J.D., Ventura College of Law
B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Professor Malmo has practiced civil litigation, with emphasis on personal injury matters, for over 30 years. He also practiced insurance defense for a year. He taught Legal Analysis, Evidence, and Advanced Evidence at the Ventura and Santa Barbara Colleges of Law from 1987 to 2000.

Devon McTeer

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law
B.S., California State University, Fresno

Professor McTeer began her legal practice with McCormick Barstow in 2003. She is currently a partner at Whitney Thompson & Jeffcoach. She has tried cases at both the state court and federal court levels and in arbitration. Ms. McTeer has extensive experience in the defense of business and complex commercial litigation matters, fraud, unfair competition, corporate and partnership disputes, and professional malpractice, including attorneys, accountants, directors, and officers liability. She also has extensive experience in defending hospitals, medical groups, physicians, and other medical facilities in matters relating to healthcare litigation. She has been retained, on numerous occasions, to assist both large and small employers in obtaining Workplace Violence Restraining Orders in an effort to protect their employees, both from a safety and liability standpoint.

Mark D. Miller

J.D., Santa Clara University
B.S., Louisiana State University

Professor Miller is the owner of Sierra IP Law, PC which specializes in patent, trademark, copyright, unfair competition and related matters. He is a member of the American Intellectual Property Law Association, the Federal Circuit Bar Association, and the Patent, Trademark & Copyright section of the and State Bar of California.

Jesse Molina

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law
B.A., California State University, Fresno

Professor Molina is the Chief Legal Officer for Aplos Software, LLC and is the former General Counsel of FocusVision Worldwide, Inc., an international private equity owned tech company and Decipher, Inc., a privately owned tech company. Professor Molina's focus is on corporate law, contracts, mergers and acquisitions, and data privacy law. Previously, he also served as Manager of ADR Services at the American Arbitration Association (the world's largest alternative dispute provider) where he administered business-to-business contract disputes primarily focused in the tech sector. In law school professor Molina was the executive editor of the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review, placed third in the National Asylum and Refugee Moot Court Competition, and was a finalist in the George Hopper Moot Court Competition. Professor Molina is a current member of the Association of Corporate Counsel and the International Association for Privacy Professionals

and is completing an executive program in digital leadership and strategy at Columbia Business School. Professor Molina serves on several boards focusing on education, equity and diversity within the community including the President's Advisory Board at Fresno State University, the Board of Trustees at SJCL, the Fresno Compact, Fresno Innovative Charter Schools and California Law Pathways.

Honorable Sally O. Moreno

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law

B.A., University of California, Santa

District Attorney Sally Orme Moreno was born and raised here in the Central Valley and graduated from San Joaquin Memorial High School in 1985. During her undergraduate years at UC Santa Barbara, Professor Moreno was involved in ROTC, and was commissioned an officer in the Army Military Police Corps. After graduation, Professor Moreno worked as a police officer for the Los Angeles Police Department. A qualified airborne soldier, Professor Moreno served during Desert Storm and received the Joint Service Commendation Medal. Professor Moreno returned to her roots and moved back to the Central Valley after Desert Storm and attended San Joaquin School of Law. Professor Moreno has worked in the Merced, Fresno and Madera District Attorney's Offices, handling homicides and other complex cases while supervising specialty units in the office. In 2018, she was elected as the District Attorney of Madera County, and after running unopposed in 2022 is now in her second term where she still manages to personally prosecute murders and other serious cases.

James Mugridge

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law

B.A., University of California, San Diego

Professor Mugridge serves as a Law Clerk to the Hon. Anthony Ishii, Senior District Judge in the Eastern District of California. Prior to and during his legal education he spent several years working in a criminal defense office where he wrote motions, writs, and appeals. In law school, he was a member of SJCL's 2013 Traynor Moot Court team which took the Roger J. Traynor Trophy for best oral advocacy.

John M. O'Connor

J.D., University of California, Hastings College of Law

M.A., University of Southern California, Annenberg School for Communications

B.A., Pomona College

Professor O'Connor has been the Research Attorney for the Madera Superior Court for the last seven years. Prior to that he was in private practice in Los Angeles, California, where his practice involved civil litigation (covering real estate, commercial lease, intellectual property, and employment disputes, among other areas) in state and federal courts.

Natalie Packer

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law

B.A., Fresno Pacific University

Professor Packer is a Fresno lawyer with the Law Firm of Borton Petrini, LLP. At Borton Petrini, she practices family law, probate, and estate planning. She has assisted clients in general family law dissolution matters, custody and visitation matters, and restraining orders for nine 9 years and has handled numerous trials in general family law consisting of custody and visitation, restraining orders and property issues. Natalie is active in the local community and volunteers with Central California Legal Services where she handles and represents petitioners in pro bono domestic violence restraining order hearings. Natalie also handles and accepts Fresno and Madera County Superior Court appointments for termination of parental rights cases and as minors counsel. She has handled matters for Central California Legal Services pro bono Domestic Violence cases and for Marjorie Mason.

Gordon M. Park

J.D. UCLA School of Law

B.S. California State University, Long Beach

Professor Park grew up in Southern California. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a 3.98 GPA from Long Beach State. At graduation, he received numerous awards as Chief Justice of the Student court, student representative to the Faculty Senate, and Outstanding graduating Senior from ASI. He also was a member of the LB State's Fencing team. From 1973 to 1976 he attended UCLA School of Law and was one of the top 5 competitors on its Moot Court Team, and selected to the "Order of Barristers". In 1976, he was recruited to join the Fresno law firm McCormick, Barstow, Sheppard, Wayte and Carruth and began to handle civil litigation primarily for insurance companies. He became a partner in 1980 and after completing over 20 Superior or Federal court civil jury trials to verdict was admitted to ABOTA (American Board of Trial Advocates). He has currently tried to verdict over 75 civil jury trials representing individuals, businesses and insurance companies in a wide variety of cases. In 1995 he began to coach the Buchanan High Mock Trial Team for 10 years. Then in 2005, he co-founded the Fresno State Mock Trial team and coached the team for 16 years. He now coaches Justin Garza High's mock trial team. He has served as President of the Fresno County Bar Association, and won awards for his Pro Bono Service, and the prestigious FCBA Bernie Witkin Lifetime Achievement award.

Hanno Powell

J.D. University of San Diego School of Law

B.S. California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Mr. Powell recently retired from the practice of law after 35 years. Most recently he was the senior partner in the law firm of Powell Slater LLP in Fresno California where his practice was devoted primarily to legal representation of commercial lenders, banks, financial institutions, and mortgage bankers in all facets of real estate, secured

lending, creditors remedies and bankruptcy representation. Mr. Powell was also President of WT Capital Lender Services for 30 years, providing Loan Default and Special Asset services to Banks and financial institutions. Mr. Powell served as Vice-Chair and Commissioner of the City of Fresno Housing and Community Development Commission from 1999-2004. On occasion Mr. Powell acts as a court appointed receiver throughout California in real estate matters.

Dan Rogers

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law
B.S., San Diego State University

Professor Rogers practices interactive entertainment, transactional, and intellectual property law, primarily within the video game and social media industries. His writing, research, and lectures have helped many understand the dynamics of the video game and interactive media industries. Currently, Professor Rogers serves as the senior partner at the law firm of Premack Rogers based in Bellevue, Washington. Prior, Professor Rogers served as a senior partner with Interactive Studio Management, general manager with Sierra On-Line (now Vivendi Universal), and director of entertainment software for IBM.

Peggy Sasso

J.D., UCLA School of Law
M.F.A., Yale University
B.A., University Of California, San Diego

Peggy Sasso has extensive trial and appellate experience at both the state and federal level in courts across the country, including litigating over forty cases at the Ninth Circuit and prevailing twice at the U.S. Supreme Court without oral argument. She has been with the Office of the Federal Defender since 2009 where she currently serves as the First Assistant for the Eastern District of California as well as the appellate attorney for the Fresno office. Previously she practiced civil law as a litigation associate at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York City and Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP in Los Angeles. She clerked for Judge Richard Clifton at the Ninth Circuit. Her publications include Criminal Responsibility in the Age of "Mind-Reading," 46 American Criminal Law Review 1191 (2009), Implementing the Death Penalty: The Moral Implications of Recent Advances in Neuropsychology, 29 Cardozo Law Review 765 (2007), and Searching for Trust in the Not-For-Profit Boardroom: Looking Beyond the Duty of Obedience to Ensure Accountability, 50 UCLA Law Review 1485 (2003).

Hon. Michael Sheltzer

J.D., Golden Gate University School of Law
B.A., Tulane University

Professor Sheltzer is a Judge of the Tulare County Superior Court. Prior to his appointment to the Bench in 2013, he worked as a public defender for nearly 29 years both in San Francisco and Tulare counties. He was appointed Chief Public Defender for Tulare County in 2002, managing an

office of 45 attorneys. He has tried countless criminal cases including many murder and capital murder cases. Professor Sheltzer has taught at the annual California Public Defenders Association Trial Skills Institute and has taught a variety of law related courses at the undergraduate level. Prior to attending law school he was a probation officer in New Orleans.

Vincente Tennerelli

J.D., University of Chicago
B.A., University of Notre Dame

Vince is Associate General Counsel for Community Health System. His role focuses on compliance with federal and state regulations governing physician contracting, IRS and State regulations governing nonprofit hospitals, and clinical research. Before joining Community in 2022, Vince served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Fresno U.S. Attorney's Office for seven years, first in the Civil Division pursuing healthcare providers and government contractors for civil recoveries under the False Claims Act, and then in the White Collar Unit, prosecuting federal crimes including political corruption and fraud. Vince began his legal career as a corporate bankruptcy attorney before practicing civil litigation in Chicago, where he litigated against major banks in disputes involving fraudulent home loans issued in the run-up to the Great Recession.

Amelia Thompson

J.D., University of North Carolina School of Law
B.S., Appalachian State University

Professor Thompson serves as a Law Clerk to the Hon. Jeremy Peterson, Magistrate Judge in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California at Yosemite. She has also served as a Law Clerk to the Hon. Louise W. Flanagan and the Hon. Malcolm J. Howard, both District Judges in the Eastern District of North Carolina. Before moving to Fresno, professor Thompson practiced at the South Carolina Environmental Law Project. During her time at the University of North Carolina School of Law, she taught an exam writing course, and worked at the North Carolina State Ethics Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 office, and Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section, along with completing over two hundred hours of pro bono work for various nonprofit organizations.

Douglas O. Treisman

L.L.M., Chapman University School of Law
J.D., Santa Clara University, School of Law
B.A., The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Professor Treisman was admitted to practice law in California in 1987. He retired from the Fresno County District Attorney's Office as a Senior Deputy and the Lead Attorney of the Writs and Appeals Unit in March of 2020. Although his career began in civil practice at the law firm of Baker, Manock & Jensen in 1989, for more than 30 years thereafter he worked as a prosecutor assigned to every major team in the DA's Office; including homicide, sexual assault, career criminal, and the crime charging unit. He has been

certified by the State Bar as a Specialist in Criminal Law and served as a Commissioner on the State Bar Criminal Law Advisory Commission from 2014 through 2018. Professor Treisman successfully litigated cases on behalf of the District Attorney's Office in the Superior Court, the Superior Court Appellate Division, the Fifth District Court of Appeal, and the California Supreme Court. He was appointed in 2023 by the Madera Superior Court as a Court Commissioner, assigned to the AB 1058 Child Support calendar in Department 17. He presides over those matters on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Craig C.O. Waters

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law

B.S., California State University, Fresno

Professor Waters is the owner of Modern Legal PC, a boutique civil litigation firm focusing on real estate and landlord tenant matters. Prior to opening Modern Legal PC, Professor Waters worked as an associate attorney at Cuttone & Associates and Abrams Law Group, working exclusively with litigation cases involving business, real estate, and landlord-tenant disputes. In addition to litigation, Professor Waters has also presented numerous educational seminars and presentations and wrote a guide on AB 1482.

Shannon Wentworth

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law

MA, Fresno State University

BA, Fresno State University

Shannon Wentworth is the director of SJCL's BREN Clinic, advocating for special needs kids from Kern County to Madera County. She also teaches Legal Methods. Wentworth graduated from SJCL in 2019, earning 4 Witkin Awards for Academic Excellence, the Hugh Goodwin Scholarship, the Elizabeth O'Neill Scholarship (twice), Ibarra / Casillas LawSUIT Scholarship, Association on Indian Affairs Florence Young scholarship, American Indian Graduate Institute fellowship, and the Loomis Legacy Medal of Distinction. She was an associate attorney at Mugridge Law Firm before starting her solo practice, Wentworth Law Firm, specializing in post-conviction criminal defense. She also volunteers with the Project First Step Clinic at Central California Legal Services. She was an instructor at CSU, Monterey Bay, and Hartnell Junior College. She has served on the boards of the North Fork Rancheria Indian Housing Authority, North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians Election Board, International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association Foundation, and San Francisco LGBT Center. She is the former CEO of Sweet, a groundbreaking lesbian travel company.

Gary L. Winter

J.D., San Joaquin College of Law

B.S., Saint Louis University

Professor Winter is the founder and CEO of Lawvex, LLP, a Central California regional estate and trust law firm with offices in Clovis, Madera and Solvang/Santa Barbara. After practicing business and estate planning as an associate



with McCormick Barstow and Powell & Pool in Fresno, Professor Winter started his solo practice in 2009 utilizing very early cloud-based practice management software. After successfully expanding his solo practice, in 2014, Professor Winter launched Lawvex and began adding partners and offices in a hybrid remote practice and physical office business model. Lawvex was one of the first firms in Central California to offer remote work via cloud based systems and take a branded trade name. In 2020, Lawvex was honored as one of the Fastest Growing Law Firms in the U.S. by Law Firm 500. His current role is primarily management of the firm's attorneys, staff, technology, systems and processes as well as strategic acquisitions. He is a frequent speaker and podcast guest on the subjects of law firm technology, law firm marketing, remote work, and alternative delivery of legal services. Prior to practicing law, Professor Winter graduated with High Honors from SJCL, received awards for Moot Court - Best Brief, Runner Up - Best Oral Argument, was a member of the Moot Court team, a member of the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review in 2006 and published after graduation in the article Does a Williamson Act Contract Have Constitutional Status? 17 S.J.Agric.L.Rev. 1 (2008). Professor Winter also served as judicial extern to the Hon. Associate Justice Timothy S. Buckley, 5th District Court of Appeal.

Required Courses

L105F Business Organizations I

This course examines the nature of agency and partnership relationships, including the rights, duties, and liabilities of principals, agents, and partners. This course also includes an introduction to corporations, limited liability companies, and other limited liability entities. (2 units)

L105G Business Organizations II

This course contains an in-depth examination of issues related to corporations, including problems of management, duties and liabilities of officers and directors, shareholder rights, securities fraud, and fundamental corporate changes. (2 units)

L111F Civil Procedure I

This course involves the study of constitutional, statutory, and common law bases of modern civil procedure in both state and federal courts. Emphasis is placed on personal jurisdiction, subject matter jurisdiction, venue, transfer, forum non conveniens, and issues related to choice of law. State and federal rules of civil procedure are considered. (3 units)

L111G Civil Procedure II

This course involves the study of civil litigation from the commencement of an action through trial and appeal. Emphasis is placed on pleading, joinder, discovery, pre-trial motions, trial, motions after trial, appellate review, and preclusion. State and federal rules of civil procedure are considered. This course includes a review of the topics covered in Civil Procedure I. (2 units)

L115 Community Property

This course is an overview of marital property systems. It covers the community property system in California – characterization of assets, rights to management and control, resolution of disputes involving community assets, creditors' rights, and distribution of the community property on death or dissolution. (3 units)

L125F Constitutional Law I

This course introduces the student to legal issues arising from the governmental structures governed by the United States Constitution, including the sources of federal power, the relationship between state governments and the federal government, and the relationships among branches of the federal government. It also explores the nature of, and limitations on, the judicial power of the federal courts, and certain rights protected by amendments to the Constitution. Topic areas include enumerated powers, separation of powers, implications of federalism, intergovernmental immunities, limitations on state regulatory power (the

Dormant Commerce Clause, the Contract Clause, the Interstate Privileges and Immunities Clause), the Takings Clause, Procedural Due Process, Substantive Due Process, justiciability (the political question doctrine, standing, and related areas), and the Second Amendment. While the focus is on discerning applicable rules and applying them to fact situations, relevant constitutional policy and theory are examined to aid comprehension and deepen understanding of the lawyer's role in our constitutional system. (3 units)

L125G Constitutional Law II

This course focuses primarily on study of those portions of the United States Constitution that protect critical human rights such as freedom of speech and of association, freedom of religion, and equal protection. The doctrine of State Action is also examined. While the focus is on discerning applicable rules and applying them to fact situations, relevant constitutional policy and theory are explored to aid comprehension and deepen understanding of the lawyer's role in our constitutional system. (3 units)

L130F Contracts I

This course introduces students to the basic elements of consensual liability, including the fundamental principles of contract formation, performance, breach, and remedies. This course also includes an analysis and application of the Uniform Commercial Code. (3 units)

L130G Contracts II

This course continues to look at the elements of consensual liability and may include such other principles as restitution, advanced remedies, third party beneficiaries and parole evidence. (3 units)

L135F Criminal Law

The criminal law course provides an overview of the purpose of criminal law, the procedures by which it is enforced, and its substantive content, including offenses against the person, habitation and property, imputability and responsibility, modifying circumstances negating responsibility, and limitations on criminal capacity. The criminal procedure course reviews the constitutional principles regulating and limiting criminal procedures of arrest, investigation, discovery, accusation, trial, sentencing, punishment, and appeal. (3 units)

L135G Criminal Procedure

The criminal law course provides an overview of the purpose of criminal law, the procedures by which it is enforced, and its substantive content, including offenses against the person, habitation and property, imputability and responsibility, modifying circumstances negating responsibility, and limitations on criminal capacity. The criminal procedure course reviews the constitutional principles regulating and limiting criminal procedures of arrest, investigation, discovery, accusation, trial, sentencing, punishment, and appeal. (3 units)

L140F Evidence I

This course examines the rules of evidence, which includes common law and Constitutional principles as well as federal and California rules, relating to relevance, materiality, and the hearsay rule and its exceptions. (3 units)

L140G Evidence II

The course continues examining the rules of evidence relating to scientific evidence, the opinion rule, authentication and the best evidence rule, impeachment and rehabilitation, presumptions and burden of proof, parole evidence rule, and the conduct of the trial from opening statement to final argument. (3 units)

L151F Legal Methods I

This course is an introduction to legal methods, including case briefing, the impact of precedent, factual analysis, the importance of policy and the use of analogy. Distinguishing and synthesizing cases are also topics. Also covered are the purposes and sources of the law, court structures, and study techniques. (2 unit)

L151G Legal Methods II

Students are taught how to locate, use, and cite all the major types of research materials available to the legal practitioner. The emphasis is on developing practical research skills. Writing skills are developed through briefs and exercises, and drafting of memoranda, complaints, and points and authorities. (2 unit)

L155 Moot Court

This program is designed to further the skills of legal research, brief writing, and oral advocacy. Students are given a mock appellate case. Students research and write a brief for either the appellant or appellee. They are then coached for and participate in oral argument of their case before panels of judges selected from members of the Bar and bench. The course culminates in the annual George A. Hopper Moot Court Competition. Selected students who demonstrate exceptional skills are invited to participate in state and/or national moot court competitions. (2 units)

L158 Appellate Advocacy

The purpose of this course is to teach students the nature of appellate law in general, explain the processes, requirements, and formal briefs used in California Appellate law to the students, and to reinforce the legal research and writing skills that students have developed in their previous coursework through the completion of an Appellant's Opening Brief.

The majority of class time will be dedicated towards teaching students how to write an Appellant's Opening Brief utilizing a gradual series of benchmark assignments throughout the semester. This will be a gradual process through which the students can practice their legal research and persuasive legal writing skills. These benchmarks will be based on the contents of an Appellant's Opening Brief

and the research the students must perform in support of their brief. This course will also provide necessary preparation for the required Moot Court class offered during the Spring semester. (2 units)

L160F Property I

Following an introduction to the general concepts of real and personal, the course examines adverse possession, estates in land, and future interests. The relation, rights, and duties of the landlord and tenant will also be covered. (3 units)

L160G Property II

This course continues the study of real property, exploring individual and societal rights to water, air, and natural resources. Conveyancing, easements, covenants, and servitudes are covered. Finally, the State's ability to control land use or to take property is examined. (2 units)

L161 Real Property Drafting

This course gives students the opportunity to put their academic knowledge of Real Property law into practice by drafting various documents related to real property issues and transactions. The course will be graded Pass/Fail. (1 unit)

L165F Remedies I

Remedies focuses upon the development, nature, and scope of relief that a court may grant a party who has established its entitlement to a substantive right. Remedies I covers compensatory damages involving tort, contract, constitutional claims and dignitary harm. The course also commences an exploration of equitable coercive remedies and their basic requirements (3 Units).

L165G Remedies II

Remedies II continues the exploration of coercive equitable remedies, including the availability of preliminary injunctive relief. This course also covers declaratory relief, punitive damages, restitutionary remedies, and equitable defenses to remedies (2 Units).

L170F Torts I

This course involves the study and analysis of legal rules which determine whether civil liability should attach to conduct resulting in harm to others. Intentional torts, negligence, causation, strict liability, nuisance, misrepresentation, defamation, invasion of privacy, interference with economic relations, and product liability are considered. (2 units)

L170G Torts II

This course involves the study and analysis of legal rules which determine whether civil liability should attach to conduct resulting in harm to others. Intentional torts, negligence, causation, strict liability, nuisance, misrepresentation, defamation, invasion of privacy, interference with economic relations, and product liability are considered. (3 units)



L175 Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning I

The course examines the transfer of assets at death through intestate succession and by will. The patterns of intestate succession and family membership determination are reviewed. The formalities of will execution, will contest, and revocation are studied. (2 units)

L175 Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning II

This course continues the study of the transfer of assets at death through probate alternatives. Formation of trusts, restraints on alienation of a beneficial interest in a trust, revocable trusts, charitable trusts, and fiduciary duties of trustees are considered. Instrument interpretation, protection against unintentional disinheritance, and other topics applicable to both wills and trusts are reviewed. (3 units)

L180 Professional Responsibility

This course explores the organization of the bar and regulation of the legal profession. Students will also be guided in the recognition of and response to the varying and sometimes conflicting duties of an attorney to client, court and society. (2 units)

L200 Advanced Research & Writing

This advanced program of legal analysis and legal writing will focus on writing projects beyond those covered in the beginning writing courses. Subject to the preference of the instructor, students may draft contracts, motions, pleadings, complex memoranda, statutes, wills and/or other types of legal documents. Professional writing style and the methods of powerful written communication are covered. (3 units)

Elective Courses

San Joaquin College of Law offers between eight and fourteen different elective classes each year, the bulk being offered during summer sessions. Elective course offered are selected based upon student need and interest as well as legal trends. The electives listed below have all been taught within the last four years.

L145 Basic Individual Income Taxation

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental concepts with regard to income taxation under federal law, with primary emphasis on individuals. The course more specifically examines identification of income subject to taxation, identification of the proper taxpayer, deductions allowable in computing taxable income, the proper year of inclusion of deductions, characterizations of income and deductions (capital gains and losses), deferral and non-recognition of income deductions, computation of taxable income and tax liabilities, and basic federal tax procedures. (3 units)

L156 Moot Court Competition

Upon recommendation of the Moot Court Director, students participating in external moot court competitions may receive academic credit. (2 units)

L201 On-Line Legal Research

This course focuses on the use of electronic resources to conduct general legal research. It will examine different effective means of performing legal research; explore searching methods for both Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw and examine other online materials and their use. The course will introduce students to some specialized research.

This is designed as a skills course. Students will complete a series of graded research assignments both during class and outside of class. Students will maintain a research log which records their research process. Course limited to those who completed Legal Research & Writing. (1 unit)

L203 Legal Process

The course will focus on skills and knowledge useful for success on the California Bar Examination. Students will be exposed to bar-style essay exams, MBE exams, and Performance Exams. Students will also receive some substantive review in Torts, Contracts, and Constitutional Law. Enrollment will be limited to graduating students. (3 units)

L205 Administrative Law

Administrative Law addresses the practices and procedures by which administrative agencies act to implement governmental policies, as well as the rights citizens have to seek judicial review of agency actions. The course includes a review of the constitutional principles of separation of powers which determine the roles of the President, Congress and the Judiciary in overseeing administrative agencies.

A particular focus is on federal administrative law and the operation of the Administrative Procedure Act, which govern the promulgation of rules and orders by federal administrative agencies, as well as the rights of citizens to challenge such agency action in court and seek monetary and injunctive relief. (2 units)

L206 Tribal Sovereign Immunity

This course explores the origin of tribal sovereign immunity, its evolution through the courts, and the effect that tribal sovereignty has had on the societal and business relationships with federally recognized tribes and their businesses. The course will examine and discuss some of the issues and concerns that a practitioner will have to address when representing clients who interact with federally recognized tribal governments. (2 units)

L207 Municipal Law

This course provides an overview of the form and structure of local government with an emphasis on decision-making, open government and ethics. Topics include home rule, open meeting laws, conflicts of interest, due process, and checks and balances. Case studies will include particular types of decisions such as land use, public works, and personnel. (2 units)

L208 Animal Law

In this course, students will discuss a series of topics that relate to animals and law in various environments. The course will cover a wide array of animal law issues, including the legal classification of animals as property, constitutional standing to sue on behalf of animals, laws and enforcement relating to commercial uses of animals, and criminal and civil action that affect animals such as animal anti-cruelty laws and private causes of action such as loss of companionship/emotional distress. This course will focus on the evolution, interpretation, and enforcement of laws relating to the use and treatment of animals in our society, evaluation of whether, how and why such laws should be modified, the possible ramifications of such change, and the practical impact that lawyers can have in representing clients on animal-related issues. The course grade will be based on a final examination. (2 units)

L209 Species Protection Policy and Law

This course introduces students to environmental law and policy through the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), arguably the most powerful and the most controversial environmental statute in the world. Lectures and readings will cover the policies behind the ESA; trace the statute's step-by-step species protection scheme; examine key administrative rules and caselaw; and explore both sides of the public policy debate. Students will be evaluated based on small-group presentations, periodic short writing assignments, and a final paper. (2 units)

L210 Bankruptcy

Bankruptcy is designed to provide students with a fundamental understanding of basic bankruptcy law. The class will cover federal statutes giving rise to bankruptcy law, the Bankruptcy Code and Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and the main participants in bankruptcy cases. The various chapters under the Bankruptcy Code will be discussed with particular emphasis on debtor and creditor rights in Chapter 7 and 13 cases. The course will also cover trustee's duties, avoidance actions under the Bankruptcy Code, property of the estate, exemptions, the automatic stay, payments of claims under the priority scheme set out under the Bankruptcy Code, discharge, objections to discharge and the nondischargeability of certain debts. (2 units)

L211 Education Law

This course will provide students with an introduction to key issues facing California Public Schools. Topics will include many areas of constitutional law such as: Student free speech controversies and dress codes in an era of social media; employee rights to speak on controversial issues; the role of religion on campus, including prayer at school board meetings, religious clubs and student and staff religious liberty rights; student searches; non-discrimination laws affecting students and staff such as Title IX; educating students with disabilities; student discipline proceedings, the rights of immigrant students; collective bargaining and the role of unions in public schools; personnel issues and the rights of school district employees; and laws governing the management of school districts such as California's open meeting law and the Public Records Act. (2 units)

L212 Private Labor Law

The course focuses primarily on the rights of employees, employers, and labor organizations under the National Labor Relations Act and related statutes, primarily in the areas of organizing and representation. The curriculum includes both a general study of the Act and specific decisions of the courts and NLRB interpreting the Act, as well as in-depth case studies of certain key areas of law developed under the Act. (2 units)

L213 Public Labor Law

The course will examine Constitutional and statutory considerations pertaining to employment relations issues concerning public employees, unionized and non-union, with particular emphasis on California law, and particularly the right to organize, bargaining rights, and the administration of finalized agreements containing terms and conditions of employment applicable to state, county, and other governmental employees. (2 units)

L215 Employment Law

This course provides an overview of various legal issues arising out of the employment relationship and the termination of the employment relationship. There will be an emphasis on employment discrimination, wrongful termination and related torts, together with wage and hour issues, all from the perspective of the California practitioner. (2 units)

L220 Law Practice Management

This course covers the skills of managing a law practice and provides a basic understanding of the skills needed to succeed in the practice of law. The course will cover the organization and management of legal work as well as practical knowledge about how law firms really work. The class will divide into "law firms" and produce projects in various areas. The course will cover a number of topics involving the business side of law practice, such as management and planning skills, as well as legal issues that impact law firms, such as partnership law, labor and employment law, leasing, pension law and malpractice. The course will also explore financial issues, marketing and technology, as well as principles of professional responsibility in these areas. (2 units)

L225 Civil Trial Practice

This course covers civil trial preparation and presentation, including file summary and organization, voir dire, direct and cross examinations, and opening and closing arguments. Rules of evidence and trial objections are included. Extensive class participation including the mock trial of a civil action is required. (3 units)

L227 The Death Penalty

This advanced criminal law course is offered to students as an introduction to 8th Amendment jurisprudence with a survey of the death penalty in America and its status in other countries. Students will learn about how capital punishment has been upheld against systemic challenges to its consistency and reliability under the "Cruel and Unusual Punishment" Clause, and how courts apply "super due process" to death penalty cases. Students will receive an overview of the unique aspects of death penalty litigation under California's Briggs Initiative (1977), familiarizing themselves with "death eligible" crimes, prosecutorial charging decisions, motion practice, and problems generated by pretrial publicity in high-profile capital cases. Students will review jury questionnaires and "death qualification" jury selection in a local capital case, and explore some special "guilt phase" dynamics, and the impact those strategies may have on the "penalty phase" of trial, including the presentation of "aggravation" and "mitigation" evidence. Course materials utilize judicial decisions and legislation, philosophical and religious essays, law review articles, award-winning films, and case examples from the professor's practice in trial and post-conviction proceedings. Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure (6 units) are pre-requisites. (2 units)

L230 Federal Courts and the Federal System

This course is an advanced seminar analyzing select issues relating to federal court jurisprudence. Topics will include the authority of Congress to restrict the jurisdiction of the federal courts, justiciability (standing, mootness, ripeness, etc.), subject matter jurisdiction of federal courts, the Eleventh Amendment, federal common law, abstention and federal civil rights under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Completion of this course will give the student a greater sense of confidence in practicing before federal courts. (2 units)

L232 Prisoner Rights

Approximately 25% of the civil cases filed in Ninth Circuit are prisoner civil rights cases. This course objectively surveys the constitutional law that applies to those cases. What constitutional rights do prisoners have once they have been sentenced and confined to an institution? The course will examine U.S. Supreme Court case law regarding constitutional rights such as the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment as it applies to excessive force, failure to protect, conditions of confinement and medical care; the First Amendment's protection of freedom of speech as it applies to access to mail, publications and the courts; the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause as it applies to disciplinary proceedings and solitary confinement; and other legal issues arising in such cases. The course will develop skills useful for all attorneys by evaluating precedent to tailor claims and arguments in court. It will also give students sufficient familiarity to take on a prisoner case pro bono after being admitted to the bar, no matter what their practice area may be. Finally, it will ask students to grapple with the difficult questions about what rights can and cannot be taken away by the government and how a society should treat those who have lost their freedom. (2 units)

L233 Homicide

The law of homicide: Is there sufficient evidence to ethically prosecute this case?

This course will cover the California law of homicide from lawful self-defense through vehicular homicide all the way to death penalty prosecutions including theories of liabilities and defenses. The focus of this course will be on whether or not a homicide can be ethically prosecuted in light of the evidence that is presented and the current status of California homicide law. Students will be evaluated based on in class participation, a writing assignment and a group presentation project. Extensive class participation is required. (2 units)

L234 Dependency Law

The main objective of this two unit course is to help law students understand the legal aspects of dependency law (Family/CPS area of law). Further, with goal of establishing a foundation of knowledge in dependency law so that the students can be equipped to practice in this area. (2 units)

L237 First Amendment

The meaning of the First Amendment is a topic of great controversy today, including whether the rights to free expression include the right to withhold certain services from certain groups, whether the prohibition against establishment of religion mandates separation of church and state or is a prohibition against preferring one religion over another, whether social media sites and postings on them can or should be constrained. This course will review the history behind the First Amendment, seminal Supreme Court cases, and current litigation. The goal is to better understand the law regarding the First Amendment and form a better understanding about how it influences our world today and should influence it in the future. (2 Units)

L241 Land Use

This course will provide an overview of the relative rights the individual and government concerning the use and regulation of land. Course topics will include nuisance law, eminent domain, community planning, zoning, local land use entitlements, subdivision maps, environmental regulations, development fees, inverse condemnation, and judicial review. (2 units)

L243 Environmental Law

This course provides an overview of the constitutional and common law foundations for environmental law, and then presents a survey of the statutes and agencies that currently address various environmental concerns, including air quality, water quality, wildlife, land use, and more. The course will investigate the interplay of various levels of government (federal, state, and local) in addressing environmental issues. Along the way, the course will address some of the practicalities surrounding environmental compliance from the industry or business perspective. (2 Units)

L244 Water Law

This course examines the development of water law from English and Eastern riparian theory, through the California and Western prior appropriation doctrine, and then to present day institutional, statutory, and judicial water resource governance. (2 units)

L245 Family Law

This course is an introduction to the laws and procedures relating to marriage and family relations, including the rights and obligations of spouses, terminating the marital relationship, parent and child relations, child and spousal support, non-marital relationships, and adoptions, with an emphasis on practice under the California Family Code. (2 units)

L246 Human Trafficking

This course will be an in-depth and comprehensive exploration of the complex issues related to the growing international and domestic problem of human trafficking. Covering both labor and sex trafficking, the material will explore current federal and state law, policy considerations,

and significant legislative and societal changes related to the crime of human trafficking. The student will be introduced to the industries wherein cases of human trafficking are commonly found, recruitment tactics of traffickers, as well as the “profiles” of traffickers, victims and buyers. Through the lens of actual human trafficking prosecutions, students will examine the challenges found in the identification, investigation and prosecution of these cases. Student will be exposed to the unique dynamic between victim and trafficker, the perplexing occurrence of victims who become perpetrators, modern trends in human trafficking, such as the increase of female sex trafficker and the ever-changing use of social media, and victim centered approaches to prosecutions. The course will also address the psychological, physical and financial impact of human trafficking on victims. The teaching methods will include lectures, discussion and guest speakers. Case studies will be in a multimedia format. The student will be presented with actual communications captured between victims and traffickers. (2 Units)

L250 Advanced Criminal Law

This advanced criminal procedure course will explore current and practical pretrial issues in the criminal arena. Topics will include charging discretion, arraignment and bail hearings, preliminary hearings, discovery practice, pleas, plea bargains, case negotiation and sentencing considerations, pretrial case preparation and investigation strategies, motion practice and pretrial writs and appellate remedies. Course methodology will include traditional casebook learning coupled with regular in-class mock adversarial exercises. Pre-requisite: completion of criminal law/criminal procedure or extensive criminal law work background. (3 units)

L251 Criminal Trial Practice

This course will present a detailed analysis of the elements of each stage of a criminal trial. The conduct of a complete trial will be emphasized; however, trial preparation, sentencing and post trial responsibilities of counsel will be included. Practices in state trial courts will be emphasized. Class participation is required. (3 units)

L255 Juvenile Justice

This course will provide an overview of Juvenile Justice, focusing on delinquency issues. The course will explore the underlying and evolving policies and philosophies of delinquency proceedings. It will further examine the practical application of those policies in the juvenile courts. (2 units)

L257 Special Education Law

This course explores the rights of students who receive assistance through special education and the responsibilities of the school districts that educate them. The class will examine and discuss the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, California's related statutes, and related case law. (2 units)

L260 Pre-Trial Civil Litigation

This course is designed for law students interested in working in the civil litigation field. It involves training students in developing the skills to practice law as it relates to most aspects of civil pre-trial litigation (from the initial filing of Complaint up until the time of trial.) It includes lectures relating to responding to a Complaint, fact gathering, case management, written and oral discovery skills, pleadings, pretrial motion work, oral argument/court appearances and alternative dispute resolution. (3 units)

L276 Legal Technology

Technology continues to shape and define the practice of law in ever-increasing ways. 28 states have adopted an ethical duty of technology competence for lawyers. Law schools must teach, and law students must learn, technology competencies in order to create productive members of the legal profession and meet the next generation of demands from law firms, clients, courts, and the legal marketplace. Legal Technology is a survey course covering diverse aspects of technology as they relate to the practice of law. Specific topics include cloud-based practice management platforms, paperless law offices, document management systems, hardware and software, cybersecurity, data privacy, and technology ethics. For 2022, this course will be updated to include blockchain, the use of digital evidence in courtrooms, Big Data, analytics, and artificial intelligence. Additional focus will be on current events and emerging technologies. (2 units)

L277 Consumer Law

This course will introduce students to the breadth and depth of California state and federal consumer protection laws, precedential effects, interrelationships with contract, tort, bankruptcy, elder abuse, and other areas of law. The course will address statutory construction, public policy, legislative intent, and consumerism, in addition to big business influence on how the courts see the merits of consumer cases. The course will also focus on consumer remedies, statutory fee provisions, and the realities of contingency fee structures. The goal of this course is to introduce the student to a specialized area of civil litigation intended to protect the everyday consumer, give insight into the successful practice of consumer protection law, and provide an understanding of how consumer law can play a key part in other practice areas. (2 units)

L279 Patent Law

This course provides an overview and introduction to the substantive law of patents. The course examines the doctrines of novelty, utility, and obviousness in the context of the application process; disclosure, claiming and statutory bars; the scope of protection afforded by patents; infringement, enforcement, remedies and defenses. (2 units)

L280 Intellectual Property

This course provides an overview and introduction to the substantive law of patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, and related matters. The course examines methods of obtaining protection, what constitutes infringement, and what remedies are available in each of these substantive areas. (3 units)

L281 Copyright/Trademark Law

This course provides an overview and introduction to the substantive law of copyrights and trademarks under federal law. The course examines the protections afforded through copyrights and trademarks, application processes, practice before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB), infringement, enforcement, remedies and defenses. (2 units)

L285 Interactive Media

Interactive Media Law is a survey of legal issues and conflicts arising in the creation and management of websites, social networks; downloadable movies, television, and music; interactive entertainment and virtual worlds; and on-line business transactions. In these areas, we will consider specific legal conflicts arising in tort, contract, intellectual property, Constitutional, and other areas of law. Regardless of where you are in your law school studies, this class should help reinforce law you already know and provide a brief preview of issues you'll soon study. (2 units)

L287 Immigration Law

This course provides an introduction to immigration and citizenship law. We will discuss general immigration policy issues and how those policies are implemented. We will also spend a substantial amount of time discussing the practical side of immigration. Throughout the semester, we will ask and attempt to answer numerous important and complex questions involving our immigration policies and their effect on people, both inside and outside the United States. (2 units)

L291 Secured Transactions

This course is designed to engage students in understanding and performing tasks relating to secured transactions—protecting the rights of the seller of goods or property without immediate payment therefor. The class will address real property transactions and personal property transactions, with the main focus on real property transactions. The goal of the class is to have students understand secured transactions and become capable of conducting any secured transaction upon course completion. (2 units)

L294 Public Entity Liability

This course will examine the procedural and substantive law aspects of public entity civil liability in California. Legal and factual issues related to the prosecution and defense of civil actions against public entities and public employees, in both law and equity, will be addressed. The presentation of claims through appropriate governmental entities, followed by the filing of the complaint, the answer, and other pleadings will be considered. (2 units)

L295 International Law

This course will focus primarily on law and practice before the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC). It will cover the law relating to: (1) energy rates, charges, service and billing disputes; (2) utility facilities, such as municipal franchises, power line extensions, outages, sub-metering, damage caused by utility facilities, and facility construction, maintenance, and repair; (3) PUC procedure, including PUC jurisdiction; rulemaking, ratesetting, investigation and complaint proceedings; PUC decisions and appeals; and rate and tariff creation and modification, and (4) State energy policy, including legislative and PUC initiatives on renewable energy, energy efficiency, smart grid, demand response, electric vehicle infrastructure, and distributed generation. (2 units)

L350, L351 Clinical Program

Students work under the direction of an attorney in a variety of established settings, including: the District Attorney's Offices in Fresno, Tulare, Madera, and Merced counties; the Public Defender's Offices of Fresno, Tulare, and Merced counties; the Superior Courts of Fresno and Tulare counties; the California Court of Appeal for the Fifth District; the Federal District Court, Eastern Division; the U.S. Attorney General's Office; the Federal Defender; the California Attorney General's Office; County Counsel of Fresno County; Fresno City Attorney's Office; Central California Legal Services; California Rural Legal Assistance. Students may also work in an arranged private legal setting with approval of the Associate Dean. (1 - 4 units)

L381 Directed Research in Legal Problems

Students may undertake in-depth research in particular fields of the law with the consent and direction of an instructor. The results of the research are embodied in a paper. Pass/Fail. (1 unit)

Admissions

Joyce Morodomi

Director of Student Services
jmorodomi@sjcl.edu

Diane Steel

Director of Admissions
dsteel@sjcl.edu

Admissions

Several academic factors influence the admission decision: undergraduate grade point average (GPA), Law School Admission Test (LSAT) or Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score, a record of improvement in undergraduate study, graduate education, additional training, and continuing education. Honors, publications, and community service are also relevant.

SJCL attempts to discover students who show the capacity to succeed in law. The School's broad policy includes consideration of community involvement, life experience, employment history and accomplishments, motivation, and maturity – factors which indicate the applicant will add a unique perspective to the student body.

The Law School prefers applicants who hold a bachelor's degree or the equivalent from an accredited college or university. In some instances, particularly outstanding individuals without a four-year degree will be considered for admission, provided other requirements are met. (See Special Students.)

Preparation for Law School

Because strong analytical and communication skills are vital to the practice of law, students are urged to incorporate writing, logic, philosophy, and research courses into their pre-law curriculum. Please contact the Director of Admissions for additional guidance.

Pre-Admission Counseling

Interviews with the Director of Student Services, Dean, and other staff can be scheduled to explore admission criteria, procedures, finances, and career options. Also, meetings can be arranged with current students or faculty who can share insight into the rewards and demands of law school.

Application Deadline

The application deadline is June 30; however, it is to your advantage to apply early. The Law School operates on a "rolling" admissions process – that is, accepting qualified individuals as their applications are completed. Because there are a limited number of spaces, the class could fill prior to the deadline.

Admission Checklist

- Apply Online
- Personal statement (1-3 Pages)
- Completion of the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Registration with the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) to set up your Credential Assembly Service (CAS) report
- Official transcripts from your degree granting institution must be provided to SJCL. Official transcripts must also be sent to CAS directly from all colleges and universities attended whether or not a degree was received.
- Two letters of recommendation (sent to either SJCL or CAS)
- Deposit Paid

Admission Categories

Regular Students

Those holding a Bachelor's degree in any major from an approved college of university qualify for admissions as a Regular Student. Under the rules of the California Committee of Bar Examiners, Regular Student status also may be achieved with 60 qualifying units of college credit.

Special Students

Exceptional applicants who do not have a baccalaureate degree, associate degree or 60 qualifying units of college credit are classified as Special Students. A limited number of Special Students are accepted each year.

When reviewing Special Student applications, the Admissions Committee stresses a solid LSAT or GRE score (50th percentile or better), a GPA of 3.0, or above, on any college coursework completed, maturity, and a record of personal accomplishment.

All Special Students must take three College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests. Pursuant to Committee of Bar Examiners' rules, an applicant must take the English Composition or English Composition with Essay and two other examinations, each designed to correspond to full-year courses (6 semester hours each) or four other examinations, each designed to correspond to semester courses (3 semester hours each) that can be selected from

any of the following subjects: composition and literature (Humanities examination only), foreign language, history and social sciences, science and mathematics, or business.

Upon completion of their first year, “Special Students” must successfully pass the First-Year Law Student’s Examination administered by the Committee of Bar Examiners in order to proceed.

Transfer Students

Students who are in good standing at either a state-accredited or ABA-accredited law school and are applying for admission with advanced standing are considered Transfer Students. Transfer Students are required to submit official transcripts for all law school work and a letter of good standing from the dean of the law school previously attended. Credit for specific course requirements is established on an individual basis. SJCL maintains a written record of a Transfer Student’s previous education which indicates the credit that has been granted and what work the Transfer Student must complete at SJCL to attain the degree.

Application Procedures

All applicants are required to take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) or the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and register with Credential Assembly Council (CAS). LSAT registration is available at www.lsac.org. GRE registration is available at www.ets.org. Other application procedures are completed through SJCL or online at www.sjcl.edu.

Law School Admission Test (LSAT)

The LSAT is a standardized test of reading comprehension, writing ability, and analytical skills. It is given six times annually at testing centers throughout the United States.

The LSAT may be taken more than once. LSAT scores are valid for five (5) years.

A sample LSAT test is available at lsac.org. Additional sample tests are available for a fee on-line at www.lsac.org. There are preparation books available at most large bookstores. There are also preparation courses that the applicant may wish to explore.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

The GRE measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and analytical writing skills. The GRE may be taken more than once. GRE scores are valid for five (5) years.

Credential Assembly Service (CAS)

All applicants must register with CAS. The Law School Admission Council provides a uniform analysis of applicant biographical and academic information to law schools.

CAS requires official transcripts sent directly from each college or university attended. Official transcripts must also be sent to CAS directly from all colleges and universities attended whether or not a degree was received. It is advisable to register with CAS as early as possible to allow time for mailing and processing of transcripts.

Once SJCL receives your application we will contact CAS to order your report. When your CAS file is complete and without financial holds, your report will be sent to SJCL. If you reapply to SJCL in a subsequent admission year, you will need to purchase a new report.

For more information about CAS, visit their website at www.lsac.org or call 215/968-1001.

Transcripts

Official transcripts must be sent directly from each institution attended to LSAC for the CAS report. Additionally, an official transcript must be submitted to SJCL from your degree granting institution.

Your Personal Statement

A personal statement is required from all applicants. The statement serves as an example of your ability to express yourself clearly and concisely – skills essential to the practice of law. Your statement should focus on: why you have chosen to study law, why you believe you will be successful in your studies and in the legal profession. Your statement is your opportunity to call attention to particular areas of your background, such as work experience or community activities.

Letters of Recommendation

Applicants to SJCL are required to submit two letters of recommendation. Letters should come from individuals who know you well, excluding family members. These individuals should be able to describe your academic qualifications, analytical ability, communication skills, character and/or accomplishments. Special emphasis is given to letters from persons who have taught or worked with the applicant.

Accounting

Jill Waller Randles
Chief Financial Officer
jrandles@sjcl.edu

Sabina Johal
Assistant to CFO
sjohal@sjcl.edu

Susie Aguilar
Staff Accountant
saguilar@sjcl.edu

Victoria Denny
Payables Assistant
vdenny@sjcl.edu

Financial Aid

Lisa Nilmeier
Director of Financial Aid
lnilmeier@sjcl.edu

Financial Information

Tuition is computed on the basis of \$995 per semester unit for the 2023-2025 academic year. Tuition and fees are due and payable at registration, unless other arrangements have been made. Adjustments in tuition will not be made for late enrollment or absence from class.

2025-2026
Schedule of Tuition and Fees

Tuition (per unit)	\$ 1,005
Student Association Fee	35
Registration Fee (per semester).....	25
Technology Fee (per semester)	250
Matriculation Fee (Graduation Fee)	300

The Matriculation Fee is assessed at the start of the student’s last semester. The fee is assessed regardless of whether or not the student participates in the graduation ceremony. The fee is refunded if the student fails to meet the academic requirements for graduation.

Service Specific Fees Are Non-Refundable

These fees are for services rendered at the time the fees are paid and are non-refundable.

Application Fee	\$50
Enrollment Deposit	\$100 (Applied towards tuition)
Late Registration Fee	\$40 + \$5 Per Day
Deferred Payment Fee.....	\$15
Schedule Change Fee	\$25
Re-examination Fee	\$150
Transcript Fee	\$10
Returned Check Fee	\$ 20
Replacement Student ID.....	\$5
Late Upload of Exam Fee.....	\$100 1st Incident \$250 2nd Incident

No services will be provided by SJCL to or for any student or graduate who is delinquent in payment of tuition or fees at SJCL. San Joaquin College of Law reserves the right to change tuition and/or fees at any time.

Schedule Change Fee

A student may make a change (add and/or drop a class or change sections if permissible) after the close of Registration and up to 5pm on the first Friday of the semester without fee by notifying the Registrar via email.

A \$25.00 Schedule Change Fee will be assessed for every add/drop form submitted (excluding Clinical, Direct Research or TA Units and authorized/approved section changes) through the last refund date of the semester. See

Add/Drop policy. A Schedule Change Fee will not be assessed for Administrative Withdrawals.

Adds, Drops, Withdrawals,
and Refunds of Classes

A student may ADD or DROP an individual class to his/her educational program in accordance with the following policy. If, in adding or dropping a class, a student’s course load for the semester either exceeds the maximum, or drops below the minimum number of units allowed per semester (see “Unit Registration Requirements” in the Juris Doctor Program section of this handbook), permission of the Dean or Dean’s designee must be obtained.

A student may ADD a class prior to the first meeting of that class. After the first meeting, no class may be added without the written permission of the instructor. No class may be added after the third class meeting. Externship courses are an exception and may be added at any time. A student must register and pay for externship units prior, to beginning the work for which they plan to seek credit.

Whenever a student adds a class, he/she is responsible for payment of the full tuition for that class. Substituting one class for another is considered adding a class.

To DROP a class, the student must notify the Registrar of the law program in writing of his/her decision. A class dropped after the second week of the semester will be recorded as a “W” on the official transcript. A student may drop a class no later than two weeks prior to the final examination. In some classes, like Moot Court and Trial Practice, special deadlines will be announced. Failure to drop formally from a class by the established deadline, results in a failing grade for that class.

Tuition refunds for dropped classes will be calculated from the date of the written notice. Any refund due a student will be paid within 30 days after written notification of the student’s decision to drop is received. Consult the Dropping a Class Refund Schedule below to determine periods eligible for a refund. CAUTION: Reduction in units may jeopardize your financial aid.

Drop a Class Refund Schedule

The following schedule applies when a student drops an individual class but does not completely withdraw from school. A student completely withdrawing from school should consult the SJCL Withdrawal Refund Schedule.

Fall and Spring Semesters

Notification Date

of Dropping Class	Tuition Refund %
Before the first class session	100%
Day 1 through Day 21 of the semester*	100%
Day 22 and thereafter	No Refund

Summer Semester

Notification Date

of Dropping Class	Tuition Refund %
Before the first class session	100%
Day 1 through Day 8 of the semester*	100%
Day 9 and thereafter	No Refund

*All calculations are in calendar days beginning the first day of the semester.

Student Notice to SJCL of Complete Withdrawal

Official notice of complete withdrawal from school must be made in writing, electronically, or verbally to one of the following individuals:

- Chief Financial Officer
- Dean
- Dean of Students
- Director of Student Services
- Financial Aid Director

Students are strongly advised to submit a written notice of their withdrawal. Official withdrawal forms are available at the reception desk. The SJCL Withdrawal Refund will be calculated from the last documented day of attendance.

A student who elects to completely withdraw from all classes at SJCL may receive a refund of tuition and fees, if eligible, in accordance with the following policy. Refunds are calculated based upon the total semester cost of tuition and fees less an administrative fee equal not greater than \$100. The refund policy is subject to change in accordance with federal and state regulations. For specific information regarding a student's potential refund, the student is strongly urged to consult the Financial Aid or Accounting Office prior to withdrawing.

The following schedule applies only to Complete Withdrawal from the fall, spring or summer session at SJCL. Students receiving Federal Direct loans must also refer to the new federal Return of Title IV Funds policy. In effect, this policy requires SJCL to return student loan funds used to pay for tuition and fees if a student withdraws before the 60% point of the semester, frequently resulting in the student owing the school money for tuition and fees previously paid for with financial aid funds.

Tuition & Fees

Time of complete withdrawal*

Refund %*

On or before the 7th day of the semester.....	100%
On the 8th day of the semester, and through completion of 10% of the semester	90%
Through completion of 25% of the semester	50%
Through completion of 50% of the semester	25%
After the completion of 50% of the semester	No Refund

*All calculations are in calendar days.

*Tuition and fees refund percentage is calculated less the administrative fee

*The 90% tuition/fee refund is not applicable to the summer term due to its length.

Return of Title IV Funds Policy

Federal Title IV student loan recipients must understand the Federal Return of Title IV Funds policy, to determine the amount of loan funds they are eligible to keep when they completely withdraw from classes. In effect this federal policy requires SJCL to return a percentage of student loan funds used to pay tuition and fees, when a student withdraws before the 60% point of the semester, frequently resulting in the student owing the school money.

Calculation of Amount of Title IV Federal Loans Earned

Through the 60% point in each payment period or semester, a pro rata schedule is used to determine how much federal student loan aid the student has "earned" at the time of withdrawal. The percentage earned is calculated by dividing the number of calendar days in the semester completed as of the last documented day of attendance by the number of calendar days in the semester (excluding scheduled breaks of 5 days or more). The resulting percentage is multiplied by the net amount of financial aid received, or that could have been received, to determine the amount of aid "earned."

Calculation of Unearned Title IV Federal Loan Funds to be Returned

The difference between the net amount of aid received and the amount earned is the amount of "unearned" aid that must be returned. The school is responsible for returning the lesser of 1) the amount of unearned aid received or 2) the percentage of aid unearned multiplied by the amount of institutional charges (tuition, registration fee and student association fee) for the semester. The student is responsible for returning any remaining unearned financial aid. Students can return unearned loan amounts in accordance with the terms of the promissory note.

The key thing to understand about the Return of Title IV Funds Policy is that a student loan recipient who stops attending classes at or before the 60% point in the semester may owe the school money for tuition. The closer to the 60% point a student withdraws the more money he or she may owe the school.

Students considering withdrawing from San Joaquin College of Law are strongly urged to contact the Financial

Aid Office to ensure they understand all of the financial implications. Sample Return of Title IV Fund calculations are available in the Financial Aid Office upon request.

Return of Federal Loan Funds

If a student's LDA (last date of attendance) for the semester is after the 60% point the student has earned all of the Title IV loan funds and no funds are returned.

If a student's LDA (last date of attendance) for the enrolled period is on or before the 60% point the unearned portion of the Title IV loan funds must be returned. Refer to the Return of Title IV Funds policy or the Financial Aid office for further instructions on calculating return of "unearned" loan funds.

Return of Federal Loan Funds Withdrawal Schedule (2025-'26 Academic Year)

Summer 2025 – 2 unit classes

Enrollment period..... 6/9/25 – 7/15/25
Calendar days in semester37 days
60% point – LDA for return of loan funds 6/30/25
No return of loan funds 7/1/2025 and after.

Fall 2025

Enrollment period..... 8/18/25 – 12/12/25
Calendar days in semester 117 days
60% point - LDA for return of loan funds 10/26/25
No return of loan funds 10/27/2025 and after.

Spring 2026

Enrollment period..... 1/5/25 – 5/8/25
Calendar days in semester 114 days
(excluding 10-day spring break)
60% point – LDA for return of loan funds 3/13/26
No return of loan funds 3/16/2026 and after.

Refund Distribution

Where a refund is applicable, SJCL must return funds in the following order under federal regulations:

- Federal Direct Unsubsidized
- Federal Grad PLUS
- Other Federal, Title IV assistance programs
- Other Federal, State, private or institutional assistance programs
- Student

Student loan recipients are urged to consult with the Financial Aid Office prior to withdrawing.

Tuition Tax Credits or Deductions

In addition to the financial aid already mentioned, many students are eligible for the Lifetime Learning income tax credit or a Deduction for Higher-Education Expenses for qualified tuition and fee expenses. These credits/deductions are claimed when federal tax returns are filed. Contact your tax preparer, or download the IRS publication 970 from the IRS website, <https://www.irs.gov/> for further information. You may also call 1-800-TAX-FORM for the form.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is available to qualifying students seeking help in meeting the cost of their educational endeavors. A Financial Aid Administrator is on staff to provide detailed information and assistance.

Financial aid application instructions and forms are updated each January at the school website, www.sjcl.edu/finaid, for the upcoming academic year. For continuing students, the deadline for submission of required financial aid forms is April 30 of each year. New students should complete the forms as early as possible, but no later than June 30 (exceptions can be made for late admits).

Types of Financial Aid Available

- **Federal Direct Loans** are the major form of financial aid for law students. Any eligible, regular student enrolled at least half-time may borrow Federal Direct Loans. The maximum annual loan limit is the lesser of \$20,500 or the cost of attendance minus other financial aid. Most students are eligible for the \$20,500 maximum. Graduate students must have completed a minimum of 72 units of undergrad credits to be eligible for Federal Financial Aid and Federal Loans. Contact the Director of Financial Aid for specific loan maximums.



- **Grad PLUS Loans**, graduate students are also eligible to borrow under the Federal PLUS Program up to their total cost of attendance minus all other estimated financial assistance. Federal Direct unsubsidized loans must be applied for first.
- **Federal Work-Study** jobs are available on a limited basis to students with need. Most positions require the completion of the first year of law school to qualify. Contact the Financial Aid Department for further details or visit SJCL's on-line listing of employment opportunities called Careers at www.sjcl.edu/jobs.
- **Scholarships**, ranging from \$500 to \$2,500, are awarded each spring to about 35 recipients. Private groups outside San Joaquin College of Law also offer scholarships to SJCL students. All scholarship information is emailed to all students. Announcements provide specific information about provisions, qualifications, and deadlines. SJCL scholarships are listed on the website at www.sjcl.edu/scholarships. For further information about scholarships, contact the Director of Student Services. For outside scholarships and grants, go to the SJCL website at www.sjcl.edu/finaid, click on "Search Outside Scholarships."
- **Veteran's Educational Benefits** are available to eligible veterans, spouses of veterans, and their dependents. Contact the Financial Aid Office or local Veteran's Administration Office to ascertain eligibility and amount of assistance. Eligibility may also be determined by calling the GI Bill® Hotline at 888-GIBILL-1 (888) 442-4551. Members of the Selected Reserve may also be eligible for educational assistance.

Academic Calendar

Summer 2025

Memorial Day.....	May 27
On - Line Registration.....	May 30 - June 2
1st Day of Term	June 10
Independence Day	July 4
Instruction Ends	July 12
Final Exams	July 15 - 16
Summer Term Ends.....	July 16
Summer Break	July 17 - Aug. 9

Fall 2025

Online Registration	July 30 - Aug. 1
Orientation Week (1L)	Aug. 12 - 15
1st Day of Term	Aug. 19
Labor Day.....	Sept. 2
Instruction Ends	Nov. 26
Thanksgiving Recess.....	Nov. 27 - 29
Final Exams	Dec. 2 - 13
Fall Term Ends	Dec. 13
Winter Recess	Dec. 16 - Jan. 3

Spring 2026

Online Registration	Dec. 27 - 29
1st Day of Term	Jan. 6
Martin Luther King Jr.	Jan. 20
Presidents' Day	Feb. 17
Spring Recess	April 14 - 18
Instruction Ends	April 25
Final Exams	April 28 - May 9
Spring Term Ends.....	May 9
Commencement	May 31

*Dates subject to change



Organizations

Alumni Association

SJCL's Alumni Association endeavors to strengthen alumni connections and provide support to current students, graduates, the law school, and the community. The Alumni Board, along with the help of committees and volunteers, present several events each year. Among them are the SJCL Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Senior Citizens Law Day, Got MCLE?, the Marjaree Mason Christmas Party, Bar Survival Talks, and the Judy Wiseman Memorial Golf Tournament. Through these and other events, the Alumni Association provides scholarships for law students as well as community service programs and mentoring activities. In addition, SJCL Alumni maintain a strong professional network among their classmates. SJCL graduates have distinguished themselves as judges and court commissioners (thirty-six), the California Health and Human Services Secretary, the former Deputy Undersecretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the current District Attorneys for Fresno and Kings Counties, just to name a few.

Student Bar Association

The San Joaquin College of Law Student Bar Association, of which all students are members, provides an opportunity for public service and the discussion of student issues.

Each group of students in the same class year at the Law School selects two class representatives, which form the governing group of the Student Bar Association. The representatives of the first year class are selected each fall. The representatives of the upper classes and the officers are selected annually during the spring semester. Officers include the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

The Student Bar Association coordinates a number of annual events, including portions of the first year orientation, the new student reception, and the annual spring awards banquet.

The Student Bar Association coordinates the Outstanding Student Award Program, in which candidates are nominated by members of their respective classes based on outstanding scholarship, leadership, and contributions to the class. The Student Bar Association also coordinates the Student Mentoring Program. In addition, the Student Bar Association sponsors scholarships.

Christian Legal Society

The Christian Legal Society (CLS) is a nationwide Christian fellowship committed to acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with their God. Founded in 1961, CLS defends religious liberties for all Americans in the legislatures and the courts and serves those most in need in our society through Christian Legal Aid. They are organized in more than 1100 cities into attorney chapters and law student chapters across the United States. Four

students committed to creating a faith based fellowship on campus founded the CLS chapter at SJCL in September 2017.

Delta Theta Phi

We encourage law students to consider being a member of the nation's premier law fraternity. Delta Theta Phi, which can trace its roots to 1900, has initiated more than 136,000 members locally, across the country, and in several other nations. Many of our members are distinguished persons in government, in business, in international affairs, on the judiciary, and in the general practice of law. Membership is open to all students enrolled in the law program.

As members, students have an opportunity to become involved in the legal community, while participating in professional seminars, social events, and community service. They may qualify for scholarships and award programs, student loans, and grants through the local or national Senate. Delta Theta Phi is the only law fraternity with an authoritatively recognized law review. Each member also receives the "Paper Book," a quarterly publication of Delta Theta Phi.

Law Students United in Tolerance

Law Students United in Tolerance (LawSUIT) exists to build a sense of unity between members and to promote appreciation of diversity issues within the student body and the community through our pursuit of academic excellence, service to the school, and the coordination of activities:

- To promote SJCL to the diverse population of the Central San Joaquin Valley.
- To provide support and encouragement to new students adjusting to life as a law student.
- In furtherance of these objectives, LawSUIT extends its invitation of membership to all.

Law Student for Community Advancement

Law Students for Community Advancement's (LSCA) primary mission is to invigorate a culture of engagement at SJCL and empower the student body by facilitating positive and impactful relationships with our community. We believe that as law students and future legal professionals, we have a duty to advocate for social justice in our community. We seek to prioritize knowledge over information by restoring the value of language and promoting dialogue. LSCA opposes racism, sexism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression, and provides a place for like-minded students to access resources and organize their efforts. Through community outreach and education, we hope to create a community that embraces knowledge and promotes tolerance.

Right to Know

Policy of Non-Discrimination

In its admission, educational and employment practices, programs, and activities, San Joaquin College of Law provides equality of opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate against any individual or group based on race, color, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, age, gender, gender identity or expression, mental or physical disability, medical condition, marital status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, veteran status, sex, or any other basis protected by federal, state or local law or ordinance or regulation. San Joaquin College of Law also prohibits unlawful discrimination based on the perception of any of these legally protected characteristics or is associated with a person who has or is perceived as having any of those characteristics.

Title IX Policy

San Joaquin College of Law provides discrimination based on sex in its educational and employment practices, programs, and activities. Prohibited discrimination includes gender and sex-based harassment, sexual violence, and retaliation. To report information about Title IX violations or for questions, please contact the Title IX Coordinator, contact Beth Pitcock, Director of Human Resources, bpitcock@sjcl.edu, 559-323-2100 ext. 1457.

Reservation of Rights

This publication is intended to serve as a general source of information for prospective students. This catalog does not create a contract between SJCL and any applicants, students, or graduates. The School reserves the right to change any of its policies, without prior notice, as it deems necessary or desirable. The School further reserves the right to refuse admission to any applicant at the discretion of the Dean or the Admissions Committee and to disqualify, discontinue, or exclude any student at the discretion of the Dean, faculty, administration or Honor Board.

This catalog supersedes all previous catalogs. This catalog is supplemented by the rules and regulations stated in The Student Handbook and by posted notices. Where conflict exists between any of these sources, the most recent rule or policy is controlling. Upon acceptance and registration, it is the responsibility of the student to familiarize himself or herself with all the rules, regulations, and policies of the Law School and the rules of the California Committee of Bar Examiners as to admission to the practice of law.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

San Joaquin College of Law complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Congress passed this act to protect the privacy of student records and establish a method for student inspection of their own files and records. San Joaquin College of Law will release transcripts only upon written authorization. Students who wish to inspect their records must visit the Registrar Office. Students have the right, in the event of alleged noncompliance with the act, to file a complaint with the Dean.

Practice Outside California

"The State Bar of California's website (www.calbar.ca.gov) contains information on the passage rates of graduates of this law school and other California law schools on the California Bar Examination.

Study at, or graduation from, this law school may not qualify a student to take the bar examination or be admitted to practice law in jurisdictions other than California. A student who intends to seek admission to practice law outside of California should contact the admitting authority in that jurisdiction for information regarding its education and admission requirements.

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education

An individual may contact the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education for review of a complaint. The bureau may be contacted at:

Bureau for Private
Postsecondary Education
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