

Jerry Kenkel Scholarship Award By Professor Dane A. Cameron Esq.

In 1997, Jerry Kenkel supported the idea that 10 of CSU, Chico's legal studies students attend CACJ's Fall Seminar at no expense. These are students who are finishing their B.A.'s and doing an academic year long internship in CSUC's Community Legal Information Center (CLIC). Most go on to law school.

CLIC has about 125 student interns at any given time who work in its law office providing legal services to about 10,000 clients a year. The 12 different CLIC programs are supervised by 4 Faculty Attorneys, two of whom are Tenured Prof.'s, I am one of those. I also have an active law office and about 95% of the cases are criminal defense. Three of CLIC's 12 different programs; ALL on the side of the defendant.

Interns in the Penal Law Program answer inmate mail from across the U.S. and provide legal research and information to the incarcerated. CLIC's County Jail Law Program has interns inside the local jail, interviewing inmates and assisting them with forms, procedure, research and information. This program arose out of a lawsuit Dane Cameron and his then partner, Paul Persons brought against the county over jail conditions.

The third CLIC program that deals with criminal law is the Misdemeanors; Traffic: and Tickets Program which provides the accused with legal information, research and education to assist them in their criminal case.

At first, Dane paid the tuition for these students to attend the CACJ Fall Seminar. They loved it. Just after Jerry Kenkel completed his term as CACJ president, he became ill with cancer, and in 1999 passed away. Dane then authored a Jerry Kenkel Memorial Scholarship in which CACJ Foundation funds pays tuition and lunch for 10 deserving CSUC students to attend the fall seminar. The CACJ Board of Directors approved this in 1999 and has funded 10 students a year for the last 13 years.

About 20 students apply for this scholarship each year and, over the years, Dane has paid for some who didn't receive an award and still others "work the event so they can get in, thanks to Gail. Since 1997, over 200 of our Legal Studies Majors have attended the fall conferences. Many are now members. This year 5 of our students became CACJ members. THANK YOU CACJ for a unique and challenging learning experience. There is almost no other vehicle through which these students could see it from our side. The program and the lunch awards has opened eyes, hearts and minds. For that I am, as my students are, most grateful. Prof. Dane A. Cameron Esq.