

Patricia Lynch

In 2006, I retired as Reno City Attorney and was elected as a judge in the Reno Justice Court. I am finishing my first six-year term and running for the election this year. I gave a paper on cyber-bullying and cyber stalking in October 2011 at the World Jurist Conference in Prague, Czech Republic after taking a 10-day vacation in Romania with my husband, Drew. (Reno, NV)

David Lo

Lo sentenced a puppy mill operating under the corporate name Bradley International to reimburse the Hawaiian Humane Society nearly \$371,000 for the care of the animals. A judge for the Hawaii First Circuit Court, he also fined the company the \$306,000 in the high-profile animal cruelty case. (Kaneohe, HI)

1974

Class Representative
Gary L. Vinson

Jim Fallman

Fallman was sworn in as the Municipal Court judge for a city on the southwestern coast of Oregon. He was a long-time senior deputy district attorney in Del Norte County in northern California. (Gold Beach, OR)

Robert Long

In addition to spending the last 35 years in the shopping center development business, from which I retired in 2010, I have been involved in the Napa Valley wine business. My brother and I started David Arthur Vineyards in 1983 and started Montagna Napa Valley in 2001. Our wineries are located on the eastern mountains of Napa Valley on Pritchard Hill in St. Helena, California. We focus on the high-end winegrowing of Cabernet Sauvignon and Bordeaux blends from 35 planted acres. (Rutherford, CA)



**Soares, Agriculture
Remain Inseparable
Despite Career Path**

By Michael Heenan

Like a lot of farm boys, **George Soares, '73**, left the fields to make his way in the city. But unlike most, Soares found a way to keep the farm with him every step of the way.

A co-founder with **Jan Kahn, '72**, of the law firm of Kahn, Soares & Conway LLP, he became one of the most influential non-elected power brokers in Sacramento. But at every step on this journey, agriculture has been right there with him.

"I started in agriculture and it has stayed in the picture throughout my life. It's allowed me to develop the kind of relationship with it you can develop when you're involved in something for decades," Soares says.

Soares' parents were dairy farmers in tiny Harmony, California. The family kept a few dozen head of dairy cows and farmed a few fields. Later, they would move to Hanford and another small family farm.

After getting a bachelor's degree at Cal Poly, Soares came to Pacific McGeorge. Working in the legislature was not a part of the plan, but he became the principal consultant for the Assembly Committee

on Agriculture, a position he defined more than held. In this role and in his career since, Soares' contributions have changed the face of California agriculture. Among his achievements are the passage of the largest-ever tax relief package for California agriculture as well as the modern notion of commissions for commodity crops.

Since the 1970s, Soares has written the legal framework for more than 20 commissions — quasi-government bodies that give growers and handlers the ability to expand markets, engage in public education and conduct production and marketing research.

Soares' firm has expanded to include a government relations arm and consistently attracts top-drawer clients with no connection to farming. Still, the firm — with offices in Sacramento and Hanford — keeps agriculture as a key element of its practice.

On the weekends, Soares trades power suits for "a different uniform" and returns to Hanford, where he and his wife, Gloria, own a dairy farming operation that is considerably larger than the hillside one of his childhood. And while the dairy is fully modern and as technically advanced as any 21st century business operation, much of the time Soares can be found holding a timeless tool of his trade.

"I'm there at 6:30 in the morning with a shovel in my hand with the rest of the crew," Soares says.