

The Law Office of A.L. Hinton

The Law Office of A.L. Hinton opened its doors in February to become the Valley's newest all-SJCL law firm.

Never mind that the firm is a sole proprietorship. The sole proprietor, Alicia Hinton (Law '09), says her career incarnations – including five separate degrees in higher education – have led to this perfect resting spot.

Located in the TW Patterson Building on the fourth floor, Hinton's new consumer law practice was recently celebrated by colleagues, family, and friends at an open house that featured wine, a chocolate fountain, and door prizes.

Originally from Georgia, Hinton says she has always been interested in serving humanity, specifically in restorative justice. Upon meeting Alicia, it's easy to see it's in her nature.

Even so, the practice of law was not on the horizon once she obtained her undergraduate degree in Computer Science. She says she sort of fell into a 23-year career, the last seven with Johnson & Johnson in quality and compliance for medical devices like diabetes monitoring systems. Alicia says conducting research and study in compliance was a good fit that provided an outlet for her desire to serve, but her contact with the people who used the medical devices was limited. The idea to practice law came when she realized she wanted to work more on the people end of things.

A new phase began with her return to school for a B.A. in Comparative Religious Studies, where she spent time looking at spiritual healing and justice. She then found a program that combined study for a M.A. in Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution from Fresno Pacific University, and a Juris Doctorate



from SJCL, concurrently. To say that it was challenging is an understatement, but Alicia says it was highly rewarding as well. During the program(s) she spent hundreds of hours working with the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP), and met with victims, juvenile offenders, and their families to help facilitate restitution and restoration of community peace.

After law school, Alicia started a unique online retail business that created opportunities for survivors to share their courage to heal. Her desire to serve through the legal system was reignited upon passing the bar exam.

Alicia's more recent work with Senior Attorney and mentor William Krieg, a premier Lemon Law lawyer in the Valley, was just what she was looking for. In consumer law she could directly help people who were being taken advantage

of, and she nurtured a desire to fight for the underdog.

Alicia says her practice will focus on automobile fraud, lemon law, unfair business practices, and door to door sales scams, as well as unfair debt collection and credit reporting. "I come to work every day and learn something new," she says.

She is also partnering with Central California Legal Services to help teach people how to avoid becoming victims of consumer fraud. "Our diverse community needs advocates to help them navigate," she says. Within this complex field of the law, federal, state, and vehicle codes all intertwine in a large web, "which keeps it always interesting. I like knowing that I can leave victims with alternate paths," she said. For Alicia, "It's always about solving the problem and helping to create a better community."