

## KINGS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

### BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT—JANUARY 2007

#### Dias Law Firm Digs Deep for Solutions

by Amy Roberts

As a lawyer and farmer, Michael A. Dias applies the right tools to reap the highest yields.

Long before attending law school and opening his firm, Dias was a successful dairyman and farmer.

After graduating from Hanford High School in 1976, he worked for the family dairy business and married his grammar school sweetheart Germaine the following year. The young couple welcomed two girls, Kristin and Kaylan, into their family and together recognized the value of Michael going back to school.

He attended California State University, Fresno from 1985 to 1989 and graduated with a degree in Economics.

"I walked out of Fresno State and went straight to San Joaquin College of Law," Dias said, adding after working during the day, driving to Fresno and attending four years of night school he graduated in 1993.

The next two years Dias clerked for a group of attorneys while at the same time managed a dairy and ran his own company.

In 1995, Dias and two law school classmates decided to open three offices simultaneously with the proviso that they would pool their resources and knowledge to share information, cases and successfully practice law.

"Our goal was that we would each have our own office and that is what has transpired," he said.

Each man opened the office in the town he was most familiar with - Dias in Hanford, David Minyard in Visalia and J. Stanley Teixeira in Fresno.

"I still call them all the time," Dias said. "If I need someone to contact about an issue they're the first people I call."

While Dias often calls his classmates, over the last three years he has added three new attorneys to help operate his busy general practice office. John M. Umscheid recently came onboard as a law clerk, and will join the team of Jimmy J. Rodriguez, Joseph M. Simoes and Jonette M. Montgomery when he passes the bar exam, which he expects to hear the results of in November.

Other staff members include: Tammy Gonzales, paralegal; Sydney Pepin and Bertha Rodriguez, legal secretaries; Charlotte Coleman, accounts manager; Elba Uribe, receptionist and Germaine Dias is the office manager.

Asked about working with his wife, Dias said, "She is a tremendous asset to our firm. I wouldn't be where I am today without her and furthermore I wouldn't see her much if she wasn't here." He added, "I have been blessed since I have an excellent staff."



*The Dias Law Firm moved to Grangeville Boulevard after refurbishing the property*

Dias Law Firm handles all types of work including all types of agricultural law, estate and trust planning, family law, real estate law, personal law, criminal law and most civil litigation.

"I enjoy cases that are exciting and interesting and helping clients that are receptive and willing to listen to innovative ways to solve litigation," Dias said. "You always feel extremely rewarded when you see a client walk out of the office satisfied."

With his long background in the agricultural industry, Dias said being a member of Kings County Farm Bureau is an important way to stay informed. It's important for our clients that we know what is transpiring in the agricultural community, around the state and country, he said.

"We receive the KCFB Update which we circulate and read to keep us apprised of what's going on not only in the community, but statewide as well," Dias said. "We believe Farm Bureau is a voice for ag and they do a great job."

Dias still farms walnuts, corn silage and wheat silage.

#### BUSINESS STATS

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