



# M E E T

## Janet Wallace

**By Collette Hillier**

**J**anet Wallace is proof positive to the great secret of life: the power of positive thinking. This young lady made up her mind to point her fate in a certain direction and followed her passions in a journey that led to a position as an associate at Duggan Smith & Heath. She told me that she and her husband always *dreamed* about moving to the Central Coast...

Ms. Wallace is from Antelope Valley. She received an A.A. degree at Antelope Valley College (Magna Cum Laude), and then graduated from U.C.S.B. with a B.A. in Art History and Architecture, with honors, while working 40 hours a week. While she was studying at U.C.S.B., she took advantage of a program offered in Washington D.C. In D.C., she interned at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, assisting with traveling exhibitions. Ms. Wallace also interned at The White House Office of Management and Operations where

she wrapped gifts for visitors and dignitaries for President Bush.

Ms. Wallace returned to Antelope Valley after college and taught high school photography and art for three years. She came to realize that although she loved school, teaching was not the career for her. This brings me back to the great secret of life. Those who change their fate must always start with nothing more than an idea. Change is brought about with vision followed by action. Ms. Wallace decided to change careers, return to school, and study the law. She moved to Davis and attended U.C. Davis School of Law. Not one to sit around and merely study the law, Ms. Wallace got involved in the law. She served as an intern with California's Office of Legislative Counsel in Sacramento. While there, she researched and drafted many bills and amendments. She also served as editor of the *Business Law Journal* and founded Law Students for the Arts at Davis.

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As an active law school student, Ms. Wallace became associated with *Ms. JD*, which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the success of women in law school and the legal profession. When faced with the decision — “after law school, then what?” — Ms. Wallace and her husband declared that they would not simply dream about moving to the Central Coast *someday* but that they would make it a reality. As a part of that pursuit, Ms. Wallace wrote a monthly

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series for *Ms. JD* titled, “Naming It, Claiming It: Pursuing a Legal Life on California’s Central Coast.” In it, she declared:

*“On January 1, my husband and I made a resolution for the New Year: we would move to California’s Central Coast before the end of 2010. This series will chronicle the career component of our journey as I attempt to make connections, build a network, and, hopefully (fingers crossed!), find a legal job in the next twelve months.”*

And that is just what she did! Her husband took a position at Cal Poly, and she landed an associate position at Duggan Smith & Heath. Find her chronicled journey at: <http://ms-jd.org/naming-it-claiming-it-pursuing-legal-life-californias-central-coast>. Ms. Wallace currently sits on the Board of Directors of *Ms. JD*. (Learn more about *Ms. JD* at [www.ms-jd.org](http://www.ms-jd.org).) ■



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### WHAT ABOUT EDUCATION?

Can it be negligence not to know simple aerodynamics? Probably not. Who learns that in school? Instead we have laws about tying things down.

I was surprised to learn that virtually none of California’s public schools, through high school, teach detailed classes about our judicial system. Fortunately, some progressive people are starting to work on this omission. Once young people understand evidence, they might be open to learning other useful knowledge, like simple aerodynamics. If nothing else, we can lure students to aerodynamics classes by naming them, “Pickups and Beer.” ■