

Susan Mulligan, 2009 Concord Graduate

“We have about 5,000 bee hives, however the last time I put on a “bee suit” and worked with the bees I had a hole in one of my leather gloves and, after I got stung three times in that hole, I decided that I was done with that part of the business! So now I stay in the office,” says Susan Mulligan, who continues to help with the family beekeeping business while raising eight kids.

Susan had thought about attending law school shortly after graduating from college. She had been accepted to both Stanford and UCLA law schools but decided not to go at the time, thinking she’d go after her children were grown. “But we kept adopting young children and I realized I would be way too old by the time they were all grown,” Susan recalls. “So once I discovered a law school that was fully online, I was hooked.”

Looking back on her experience, Susan says, “I have always been interested in helping people, and becoming a lawyer has allowed me to help people to a far greater extent. I also feel that my experience at Concord has helped my children to see the value of education and that one is never too old to go back to school.”



Susan was recognized for her talent and dedication to helping others when, in 2008, she received the Cal Bar Wiley W. Manuel award for providing more than 50 hours of Pro Bono Legal Services as a law student. In 2009, she received the Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance Pro Bono award for “significant pro bono legal service contributions.” The letter I received stated “We would like to honor you for your pro bono efforts at GBLA. In the past year and a half, you have donated an extensive amount of time into assisting indigent children living in Kern County find a higher degree of safety and security in their living situations by taking on increasingly complex guardianship cases. We believe that your commitment to pro bono as a law student and then as a practicing attorney sets a standard to be followed in the legal community. We commend you for your leadership as a new attorney.”

While continuing to spend about 10-15 hours a week working as a volunteer attorney, Susan also runs a private practice where her emphasis is Child Advocacy including guardianships, adoptions, special education, Minor’s Counsel and dependency work.