



WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW

AT WESTCLIFF UNIVERSITY

Southern
California
SINCE 1966







Visit Us! | wsulaw.edu

Founded in 1966, Western State College of Law is the oldest law school in Orange County, Southern California, and is a fully American Bar Association (ABA) approved private law school. We welcome you to visit our campus to experience what makes Western State feel like home to so many students and alumni. We hold several different prospective and admitted student events throughout the year.

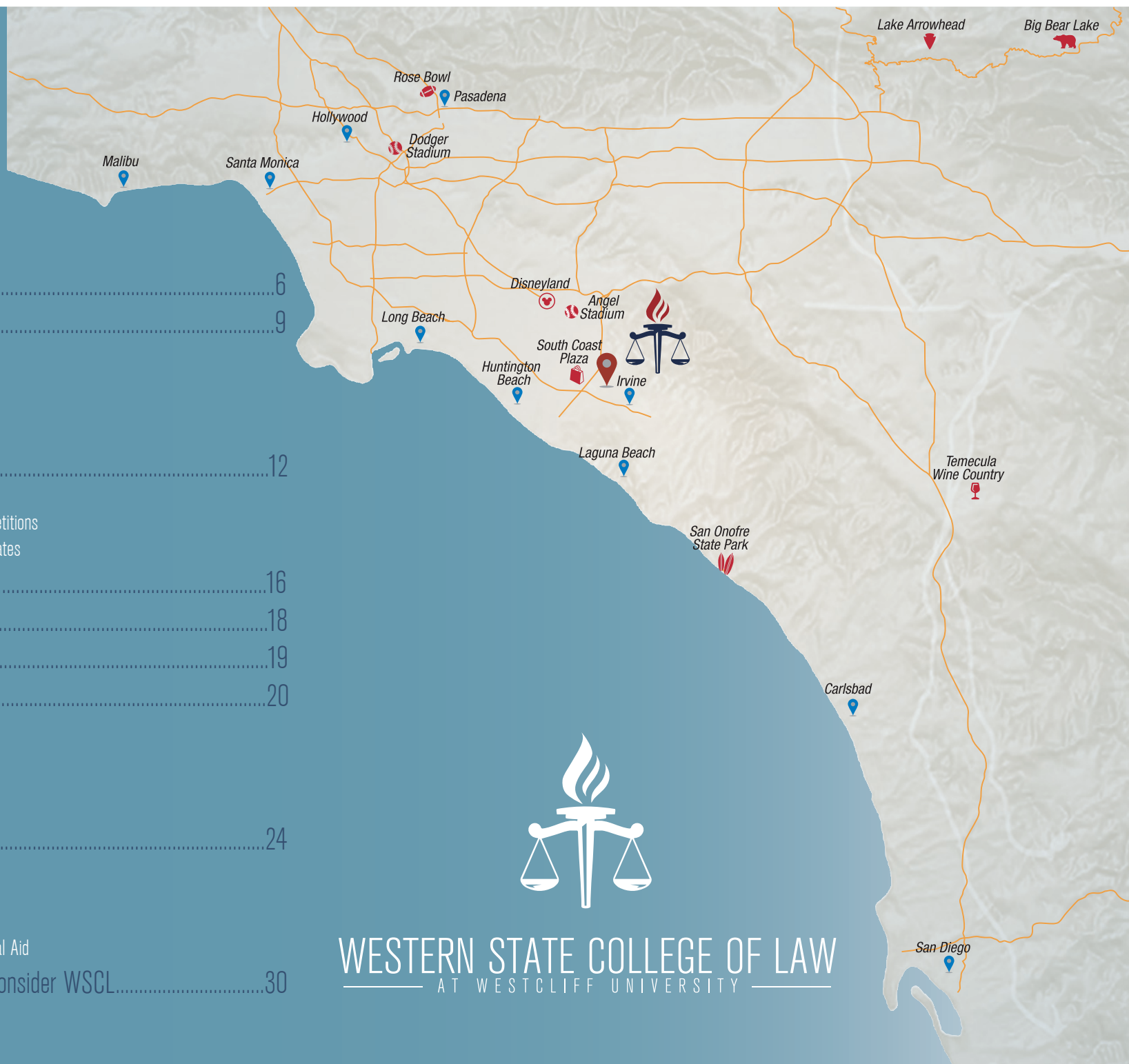


- Class visits and tours
- Law school information sessions
- Individual tours and visits
- Admitted student mixers and dinners
- Special speakers and panel presentations
- Focused informative webinars

We encourage you to contact our Admissions Office at **(714)459-1101** or email us at **adm@wsulaw.edu** to schedule a personal interview and campus visit.

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WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW
AT WESTCLIFF UNIVERSITY



J.D., American University, Washington College of Law
B.A., The Catholic University of America

Welcome

Marisa Cianciarulo *Dean*

“Welcome to Western State College of Law, and to your new career in the legal profession. It’s an exciting and important time to be a lawyer. Lawyers are innovators, problem-solvers, protectors, and advocates. Lawyers change lives, and Western State gives you the tools and training you need to have a positive impact on your community. There is no one way to be a lawyer—we come from all walks of life, with our own histories and perspectives, pursuing our own goals for our own reasons—but there is very much a family here at Western State. Our faculty, staff, alumni (which includes more than 150 judges), and your fellow students will support you as you move forward in this exciting new chapter of your life. We look forward to helping you accomplish your dreams.”



Paul Arshagouni

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

“Western State’s outstanding faculty is dedicated to teaching excellence and fosters a supportive yet rigorous learning environment. **Our highly effective academic success program prepares our students for success in law school, on the bar exam, and throughout their future careers.** The impressive and diverse professional experience of our faculty enables students to connect the important skills needed to succeed in law school to those needed to succeed in practice.”



J.D., UCLA School of Law
M.P.H., University of California Los Angeles
M.D., University of California Irvine College of Medicine
B.A., University of California Los Angeles



John O'Donnell

Law Library Director

“The Library remains the intellectual heart of the school in supporting the educational and research needs of faculty and students. Understanding that our strength derives from collaboration and shared ideas, **the Library strives to deliver resources in innovative ways, maintain a collection that complements the curriculum and research interests of faculty, and bolsters student success by offering databases and materials that include everything from study aids to practice guides to scholarly treatises.** Lastly, the professional librarians maintain an inviting and approachable presence whether in the Library or the classroom.”



J.D., Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington
M.L.S., Indiana University, Bloomington
B.A., University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Noted for small classes and personal attention from an accessible faculty focused on student success, from Admission to Graduation, Western State's culture engenders a supportive environment among students, faculty, and staff.

We invite you to join our community.



“

Western State provided a community of professors, staff, and students that are still a part of my life as a new solo attorney.

Going to school at night allowed me to pursue my dream of becoming a lawyer, while also working during the day to pay my bills. Being surrounded by other students working during the day and studying at night provided a support community that got me through the rigor of law school. I am proud to say that my WSCL network is extremely wide and powerful and every alumnus (some of whom I have never met before) has been nothing but supportive in my current practice. I attribute my success to where I began, Western State, and encourage other students to join our powerful community.

”

Jennifer Nakamura | Class of 2020

Student Community

Since its founding in 1966, Western State has maintained a commitment to diversity recognized by notable publications and the community at large. We believe that the face of law should reflect the faces the law serves. This is why we strive for a balanced student body with diversity not just in ethnicity, but in age, gender identity, and life experience.

Accolades in 2023



Rated A+ for Diversity by preLaw Magazine

Ranked 6th for Most Diverse Faculty by Princeton Review

Ranked 7th for Greatest Resources for Minority Students by Princeton Review

Ranked 8th for Greatest Resources for Women by Princeton Review



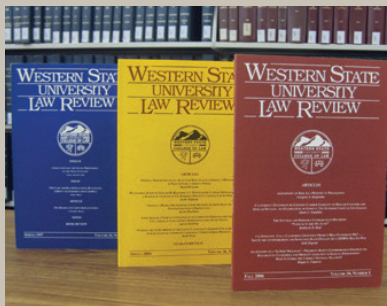
	2022	SCHOOL	2020
1	A+	CUNY School of Law	A+
2	A+	Texas Southern University	A+
3	A+	University District of Columbia	A+
4	A+	UNT Dallas College of Law	A+
5	A+	Golden Gate University	A+
6	A+	North Carolina Central Univ.	A+
7	A+	Western State College of Law	A+
8	A+	Florida A&M University	A+
9	A+	Southwestern Law School	A+
10	A+	University of San Francisco	A+
11	A+	University of Hawai'i	A+
12	A+	Atlanta's John Marshall	A+
13	A	Barry Law School	A+
14	A	McGeorge School of Law	A-
15	A	Seattle University	A
16	A	California Western School of Law	A+
17	A	South Texas Houston	A+
18	A	UC - Irvine	A-
19	A	University of New Mexico	A+
20	A	Santa Clara Law	A-
21	A	Touro Law Center	A-
22	A	Nova Southeastern University	A-
23	A	Loyola University New Orleans	A
24	A	Rutgers Law	A-
25	A	LMU Loyola Law School	A





Western State University Law Review

Law Review membership is a prestigious honor available only to students who meet the GPA and other eligibility requirements. Western State University Law Review is a legal journal that focuses on real concerns relating to California law or federal law that has a substantial impact on California. It therefore draws heavily on California lawyers' work and provides exceptional opportunities to build connections with the practicing lawyers in the community.



Student Organizations

Involvement in a student organization perfectly complements the law school experience. Membership in any one of the broad array of organizations on campus offers opportunities to become more involved in campus life, network with other law students at Western State, and develop bonds that last throughout law school and beyond!

With so many options, you're likely to find a great fit for you:

- Artificial Intelligence Law Student Association (AI)
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)
- Black Law Students Association (BLSA)
- Business Law Student Association (BLA)
- Christian Legal Society (CLS)
- Criminal Law Association (CLA)
- Entertainment & Sports Law Society (ESLS)
- LatinX Law Student Association (LLSA)
- Middle Eastern Law Student Association (MELSA)
- OUTLAW
- Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF)
- Tort Law Society (TLS)
- Women's Law Association (WLA)



Public Service

Western State encourages public service by students through the school’s voluntary Public Service Program, which provides resources, programming and pro bono opportunities for students to use their developing legal skills to serve the community and its most underserved members.:



Building upon the tradition of public service reflected in the College of Law’s history, Western State considers such service a critical element in students’ educational and developmental process, and believes, that through public service, students will:

- enhance the professional skills learned at the College of Law through assisting real people to resolve real problems;
- embrace the role of lawyer as a public citizen with a professional obligation to be aware of and serve the needs of society, particularly the critically unmet need for legal services of the poor and disadvantaged;
- develop a lifelong commitment to community service and charitable activities, which will carry over into their legal careers;

Public Service Opportunities Include:



- Pro Bono Legal Service Opportunities and Externships
- Food Bank Drives
- Clothing Drives
- Public Service Week



“

It is heartening to me that Western State has earned a great reputation for **emphasizing and encouraging public service** with so many interns and externs serving while learning in Orange County.

”

Pearl Gondrella Mann | Class of 1985
Hall of Fame & Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Fullerton Elder law attorney and recent Regional Trustee of the State Bar of California

Named Attorney of the Year by the Public Law Center and recipient of the Clothing Drives
 State Bar’s Wiley Manuel Award for Pro Bono Services to the Poor

Former President of the California Women Lawyers and the Orange County Women Lawyers, as well as
 the Appellate, Trusts ad Estates, and Elder Law Sections of the Orange County Bar Association





Academic Programs

At Western State College of Law, our faculty and staff take an active interest in your personal and professional development. We provide individual guidance and access to a wide range of academic support services and exciting opportunities in the field to help you succeed and find your legal niche.

Academic Success

First Year of Law School

Introduction to Legal Methods is a course for 1Ls during the first semester. With individual support and feedback from full-time faculty and dedicated Dean's Fellows in our Academic Success Center, first year students get help to acquire the skills and tools to succeed in law school and in the legal profession.

Preparing You for the Bar Exam

Courses like Basic Bar Studies help students start early to acquire the skills and substantive knowledge required for success on the bar exam and in the first year of practice.

Experiential Learning

Western State seeks to foster law students' development as legal professionals throughout law school. Our faculty bring examples from their practical legal experience into the classroom, engaging our students and illustrating how theory comes together in practice. These enhancements beyond standard legal instruction help students understand the law and its application. We prepare students for the daily experience of practicing law.

“None of this would have been possible without the amazing help of the Western State College staff with Bar Prep and I am grateful to have passed on my first try because of it.”

Michael Vasquez | Class of 2022



National Advocacy Competitions

Students selected for our advocacy competition teams practice real-life court skills and get the chance to compete with law students across the country.



Lori Roberts

Faculty Advisor | Honors Moot Court Team

J.D., University of Miami School of Law
B.A., University of Washington

Moot Court

Team members participate in national appellate advocacy competitions in a variety of topic areas including immigration, bankruptcy, criminal, family, gaming, and sports law.



Robert Molko

Faculty Advisor | Mock Trial Team

J.D., Southwestern School of Law
M.S.E.E., New York University, New York
B.S.E.E., City College of New York

Mock Trial

Our Mock Trial team competes in the national mock trial competition, where each round is a time-limited presentation of a court trial.

Negotiations

The American Bar and California Bar Associations sponsor negotiation competitions between member schools in which teams of two students attempt to negotiate a resolution to a difficult legal conflict. Students' preparation, strategy, tactics, and adaptability is judged by a panel of experienced legal professionals from the community.



Top photo: Moot Court Team Members 2022-2023 Jeremy Basuga, Alexandra Jara, Mireya Valle, Alexandra Nevarez, Kori Gearhart, Sierrah Flores, Iana Iassinskaia, Sara Montazeri Aliabadi, and Quinn Porter | **Middle photo:** Professor Stephen Hendricks, with students Alexandra, Jara & Javier Martinez at the Schreck Gaming Law Moot Court Competition 2023 | **Bottom photo:** Sorell Call and Megan Milne at the 2023 Brooklyn Law School Evidence Moot court competition in April.



Law Centers and Certificates

To maximize your skills and practice-readiness, Western State provides access to a wide range of enriching and resume-building opportunities.

As a Western State student, you can specialize your skills and customize your education by choosing from several different law centers and certificates. These allow you to explore the many possible areas of law practice and find the path that's right for you using electives that are part of your course of study. All certificates are part of our Juris Doctor degree program, and can not be earned as a separate degree objective.



- Business Law Center and Certificate
- Criminal Law Practice Center and Certificate
- Family Law Practice Certificate
- Immigration Practice Certificate
- Real Estate Practice Certificate



Western State has developed **a reputation for preparing its students for the competitive work environment**, which has helped me tremendously throughout my internship experience.

Darren Gottlieb | Class of 2013

Photo Left: Shalini Quattlebaum | Class of 2023



Elizabeth N. Jones

Director | Criminal Law Practice Center

J.D., University of Miami School of Law
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Criminal Law Practice Center

The Western State Criminal Law Practice Center (CLPC) exposes students to the many facets of the criminal justice system and prepares them for careers in criminal law.

Students with a special interest in criminal law may earn a Certificate in Criminal Law Studies while completing their Juris Doctor, by concentrating on criminal law and advocacy in their upper-division elective courses, including externships with prosecutors, public defenders, and private defense attorneys. Students are also taught valuable courtroom skills in courses such as “Trial Practice” and “Pre-Trial Criminal Litigation.

The CLPC’s faculty is comprised of distinguished legal scholars and experienced practitioners who weave “real-world” scenarios into their instruction.

Externships and volunteer opportunities provide real life “hands-on” experience where law students can truly make a difference in people’s lives. Upper-level students may choose from a wide variety of Criminal Law electives. These electives include:



- Corporate Criminal Liability
- Death Penalty
- Domestic Violence
- Juvenile Law
- Law of Vice
- Prosecutor/Defender Externship Seminar



Stephen M. Hendricks

Director | Business Law Center

J.D., Western State College of Law
B.A., North Park College

Business Law Center

Western State’s Business Law curriculum is taught by faculty who possess strong practical and theoretical backgrounds and business credentials such as MBAs, CPAs, patent lawyer registrations, and LL.Ms. The program reflects our commitment to provide students with the opportunity to complete a broad offering of rigorous courses combining law and business.

Students who meet all coursework requirements can earn a Certificate in Business Law at graduation. Our Business Law Center also brings active practitioners to campus as speakers, hosts networking opportunities for our students and works with our Externship Program to secure meaningful practical Business Law experience for our students.

Upper-level students may choose from a wide variety of Business Law electives. These electives include:



- Bankruptcy
- Arbitration
- Intellectual Property
- Mediation



Paul Arshagouni

*Associate Professor of Law
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*

J.D., University of California, Los Angeles
M.P.H., University of California, Los Angeles
M.D., University of California, Irvine
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Contracts I and II



Amy Baghranian

*Assistant Professor of Lawyering Skills
Associate Director of Legal Writing and Research*

J.D., University of California, Davis, School of Law
B.A., Duke University

Legal Writing and Research I & II | Medical Malpractice



Kathleen Bolus

*Assistant Professor of Lawyering Skills
Associate Director of the Academic Success Program*

J.D., University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law
B.A., University of California, San Diego

Introduction to Legal Methods



Todd Brower

Professor of Law

LL.M., Yale Law School
J.D., Stanford Law School
A.B., Princeton University

Constitutional Law I and II | Property



Marisa Cianciarulo

*Professor of Law
Dean*

J.D., American University, Washington College of Law
B.A., The Catholic University of America

Civil Procedure



Jennifer Dean

Assistant Professor of Lawyering Skills

J.D., University of San Diego School of Law
B.S., Ecology & Evolution, University of California, Santa Cruz

Introduction to Legal Methods | Basic Bar Studies



Stephen M. Hendricks

*Assistant Professor of Law
Director of Business Law & Real Estate Practice Certificate Programs*

J.D., Western State College of Law
B.A., North Park College

Business Associations | Contracts | Principles of Agency and Partnership



Elizabeth N. Jones

*Professor of Law
Director of Criminal Law Practice Center*

J.D., University of Miami School of Law
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Criminal Law | Criminal Procedure | Law of Vice | Juvenile Law | Criminal Justice Ethics



Susan Keller

Professor of Law

J.D., Harvard Law School
M.F.A., University of California, Irvine
A.B., Harvard/Radcliffe Colleges

Property | Torts | Agency and Partnership | Gender and the Law | Employment Discrimination



Zoha Khan

Assistant Professor of Lawyering Skills

J.D., Western State College of Law
B.A., California State University, San Bernardino

Legal Writing and Research



Stacey Kim-Jackson

Assistant Professor of Lawyering Skills

J.D., Whittier Law School
B.A., Northwestern University

Introduction to Legal Methods | Basic Bar Studies



Glenn Koppel

Professor of Law

J.D., Harvard Law School
B.A., City College of New York

California Civil Procedure | Civil Procedure I and II | Evidence | Evidence Practice



Cassandra Mellas

Visiting Professor of Law

J.D., Western State College of Law
B.A., National University

Professional Responsibility | Contracts 1 and 2 | Sales (Art II, UCC) | Criminal Procedure



Robert Molko

*Professor of Law
Director of Criminal Law Externships*

J.D., Southwestern School of Law
M.S.E.E., New York University, New York
B.S.E.E., City College of New York

Criminal Externship Seminar | Trial Practice | Criminal Justice Ethics | Evidence | Criminal Procedure | Criminal Law



Eunice Park

Associate Professor of Law

J.D., University of Michigan
A.B., Smith College

Torts I and II



Kirsten Pescetti

Visiting Professor of Lawyering Skills

J.D., Western State College of Law
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Introduction to Legal Methods



Sabrina Rivera

*Director of the Legal Clinic & Clinical
Assistant Professor of Law*

J.D., Loyola Law School Los Angeles
B.A., California State University, Dominguez Hills

Law Clinic Seminar | Interviewing & Counselings



Lori Roberts

*Professor of Law
Director of Legal Writing & Research*

J.D., University of Miami School of Law
B.A., University of Washington

Advanced Appellate Advocacy | Contracts | Legal Writing and Research I & II



Tina Schindler

Associate Professor of Law

J.D., Whittier Law School
B.S., University of California, San Diego

Civil Procedure | Remedies



Tania Shah

*Assistant Professor of Lawyering Skills
Director of the Academic Success Program*

J.D., Boston University School of Law
B.S., Environmental Economics, University of California, Berkeley
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Introduction to Legal Methods | Basic Bar Studies



Charles Sheppard

*Professor of Law
Director of Business Law Certificate*

J.D., Loyola University School of Law
B.A., California State University, Dominguez Hills

Property I and II



Stacey Sobel

Professor of Law

J.D., The George Washington University Law School
B.A., State University of New York at Albany

Constitutional Law I and II | Criminal Law | Criminal Procedure | Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity



Robert Somers

Assistant Professor of Lawyering Skills

J.D., Loyola Law School, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles
B.A., University of California, Irvine

Legal Writing and Research I & II

What Alumni Have to Say

“My classmates and I were all working and going to school at night, which created a strong bond. The ones I most admired were the single working mothers in our class. **Western State gave everyone the opportunity to succeed.**”

Michelle Reinglass | Class of 1978
Hall of Fame & Dean's Counselor

“I took advantage of the part-time evening program at Western State. While enrolled in this program, **I served as a Judicial Assistant for the LA Superior Court and worked alongside some of LA's prominent Judges.** This was the best decision I ever made for my education and career. The contacts and networking opportunities I had while working and attending school were priceless.”

Jamilla Harris | Class of 2006

“I only applied to one law school. The part-time program at Western State represented the best opportunity for me to achieve my goal of becoming an attorney. **Western's reputation, faculty, and the option of attending evening classes while keeping my full time job** as a Deputy Sheriff made Western the clear choice for me.”

Walter Carmona | Class of 2014



Part-Time Program

At Western State College of Law, we have been providing a legal education to working professionals for over four decades through our part-time program.

Western State's part-time program is designed specifically to suit the schedules of students who wish to pursue their dream of earning a law degree yet have full-time day commitments, professional or otherwise. A legal education is one of the most recognized and useful advanced degrees and can make you a more valuable candidate in today's competitive job market.

The program, with Fall and Spring starts, is designed to be completed in as little as four years. At Western State, part-time students are a priority to a faculty dedicated to teaching, accessibility and successful outcomes. Evening students follow the same Program of Study and learn from the same qualified full-time faculty as day students. At Western State, evening students are full members of the law school community, with opportunities to participate in law review, moot court, student organizations, the clinic, and externships. Speakers, panels, and other enrichment programming are most often held at times when working students are likely to be available, while Professors also schedule office hours for the convenience of their evening students.

Our Juris Doctor program teaches a valued skill set: discipline, negotiation, communication, and analytical abilities. The benefits of a law degree expand far beyond the practice of law by emphasizing how to effectively approach problems and present ideas and conclusions. Additionally, the effort required to earn a law degree instills the type of work ethic and drive that employers seek out.

Student Perspective

“ I chose Western State because the atmosphere is **warm, supportive, and collaborative**. This environment allows me to concentrate on learning the law and pursuing my passion rather than worrying about competing against my classmates. ”

Kiras Persky | Class of 2024

“ The classes are small to help facilitate the comprehension of difficult subjects. **The professors will get to know you as YOU** and not as a number. ”

Shannon Patrick | Class of 2024

“ From the first day I walked on campus, I felt **welcomed and part of a caring community**. I'm grateful for the small classes, personal attention, and the opportunity for one-on-one time with the professors. ”

Felicia Ring | Class of 2021

JD Degree Skillset



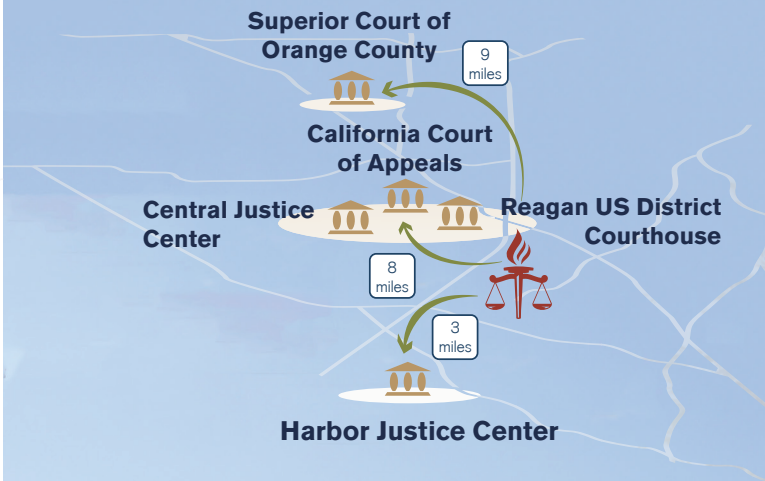
- Ability to analyze complex problems
- Learn how to create solutions
- Greater competency in presenting yourself and your ideas
- Enhanced negotiation skills
- Immediate ROI: Leverage what you learn to enhance your current role, become more valuable to your employer

Access to Courts

Convenient to all major courthouses from Western State



- Harbor Justice Center: 3 miles
- Central Justice Center: 8 miles
- Reagan US District Courthouse: 8 miles
- California Court of Appeals: 8 miles
- Lamoreaux Family Justice Center: 9 miles



A photograph showing several students in a library or study area. They are focused on their work, with some looking at laptops. The scene is brightly lit, and the students are dressed in casual attire. The word 'Resources' is overlaid in a red, serif font in the upper left corner of the image.

Resources

Law Library | Study, Research, Collaborate.

Our Mission

The personal interaction and services offered by the library staff at Western State makes the Law Library truly special among law school libraries. The Western State College of Law Library's mission is to provide users with the easiest access to the broadest possible array of legal information sources, support faculty in their teaching and research, and educate students in the use of legal information sources and the research process.

Study

The Law Library not only provides books and computers, but a variety of individual and group study spaces for students. Quiet study space, study rooms, and a collaborative study room are all available so students can pick the space that is right for them. The Quiet Study Room is for when students want absolute quiet. General quiet study space is spread throughout the library and offers both open tables and individual carrels for student studying. Individual and Group Study Rooms are found throughout the campus. Lastly, the Collaborative Study Room provides study space where students can work through problems together.

Research & Collaborate

During most of the library's open hours, a dual law- and library-degreed reference librarian is ready to assist users in finding what they need or work through a problem. Western State prides itself on having a practice-oriented, well-rounded collection of legal and non-legal materials. Responding to faculty and student research needs, the library shifted to an access model that allows users to access materials whether they are in the Law Library, elsewhere on campus, at home, or traveling. Still maintaining a core collection of print materials, the Library has expanded ready access to databases such as Fastcase, Bloomberg Law, CCH IntelliConnect, CEB OnLaw, HeinOnline, Lexis, ProQuest, and Westlaw. Collaborations with Career Development have further expanded the Library's reach by creating usable, practice-oriented and specialized collections.

Externships

Western State offers a variety of educational, real-world externship placements and encourages every student to participate in this valuable program during their time in law school. In addition to the time spent in their placement, student externs also meet weekly in an on-campus seminar. The externship seminar allows the students to explore their placement experiences in class to gain a deeper understanding of the functions and responsibilities of attorneys, judges and other legal personnel.

The categories of available externships include:

Judicial Appellate Externship

Eligible students, if selected by a justice, are placed in either a state or federal appellate judge's chambers. These students research and draft opinions for the jurist on either a full-time (400 hrs.) or part-time (150 hrs.) basis.

Judicial Trial Externship

Eligible students, if selected by the court, are placed in the chambers of a trial level judge in Orange County, Los Angeles, or Riverside County Court, where they assist with a variety of tasks in civil or criminal cases.

Civil Practice Externship

Students are placed part-time in law firms, state or federal agencies, corporations or other practice settings in the civil law field. Under the supervision of an attorney, these student externs research cases, write memos, interview clients, participate in court proceedings or perform other tasks relating to civil practice. Students in civil law externships may be eligible for certification for court appearances under State Bar rules.

First Year Summer Honors Program

First-year students who are invited to participate in the Summer Honors Program will be assigned to part-time appellate, judicial trial or civil practice externships for the eight-week summer session.

Criminal Law Externship

Students enrolled in a Criminal Law Externship work an average of 12-14 hours per week in the District Attorney, Public Defender, or Alternate Defender Offices in Orange County and adjacent counties.

Externship Benefits

Students earn 5 units of credit for part-time placements and 10 units for full-time appellate placements. Most importantly, externs gain a unique awareness of practice realities and the attendant professional obligations that they will face in their future legal careers. Externships are viewed as a mark of distinction by many prospective employers.



Career Resources



The Career Resources Office offers programs to assist you in creating a fulfilling career. From day one, we coach our students in how to best present their skills and achievements so they are positioned well to enter the legal community.

Some of the services we offer are:



Year-round employment opportunities in legal settings

On-campus and off-campus interviews

Access to regional career fairs

An on-going program of workshops, seminars, panel discussions and networking events, all aimed at enhancing your transition into the legal profession

“

As Past President of the Orange County Bar Association, I am excited to be a part of the exemplary team at Western State, the oldest law school in Orange County. Western State has a **strong tradition of producing practice-ready attorneys, from diverse backgrounds, who contribute immensely to the legal community.**

”

“



Practicing in Orange County, I have **worked with so many lawyers and judges who went to Western State.**

”

Deirdre M. Kelly, Esq.
Assistant Dean of Career Development



Retired Honorable Nancy Zeltzer | Class of 1977
Hall of Fame



Alumni Network

Western State has over 12,000 Alumni. Members include judges, district attorneys, public defenders, city attorneys, corporate counsel, and private practitioners, along with individuals of every conceivable professional endeavor throughout the nation.

Western State alumni serve the legal community in many different capacities, including serving as presidents and officers of local, statewide, and national bar organizations.

Alumni return to Western State to give their time and expertise to encourage students and help them further their legal education. Western State alumni remain a strong presence and can be spotted on campus throughout the year. Whether serving as speakers during commencement exercises, judging in the school's various moot court competitions, speaking at student organization events and career related workshops on campus, serving as mentors, sharing their expertise and insight of their legal practice in Continuing Legal Education seminars, or officiating at Western State's Bar Candidate Swearing-in Ceremony, our alumni lead our students by example.



2023 Alumni Winter Mixer

What Alumni Have to Say

“You can't walk into a courthouse or go to a legal seminar or other event [in Southern California] where there isn't some well known judge or attorney that graduated from Western State.”

Robert D. Coviello | Class of 1980
Dean's Counselor

“There are a lot of really high quality Western State alum practitioners in Southern California. I run into them every day, and it's a good feeling of community.”

William Black | Class of 1987
Hall of Fame & Dean's Counselor

“We have so many Western State leaders who have already forged the path in the judiciary, as well as partnership ranks.”

Solange E. Ritchie | Class of 1994
Hall of Fame & Dean's Counselor

“If you're from Western State, there's always an alum nearby who will extend a helping hand if you reach out.”

Christopher Montes de Oca | Class of 2006
Dean's Counselor

“My favorite part about Western State is the sense of community around the campus. Even the Alumni are constantly reaching out to students offering employment, mentoring, and wisdom.”

Ashley Greenspan | Class of 2010



Admissions and Application Process

Application Deadlines

For the **Fall (August)** entering class:

- Applications are accepted beginning **September 1**
- Priority deadline to apply for Fall: **April 1**
- Final day to submit an application with LSAC: **July 15**

For the **Spring (January)** class:

- Applications are accepted beginning **September 1**
- Final day to submit an application with LSAC: **December 1**

Application Requirements and Documents

Application through LSAC (Law School Admission Council) at www.LSAC.org;
application fee waived this year

Applicants must take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) or the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

Applicants must have completed a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution prior to matriculation at the law school; no particular undergraduate major is required

Applicants must register with LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS) at www.LSAC.org

Transcripts from all colleges attended must be submitted to the Credential Assembly Service (CAS)

Personal statement (2-3 pages)

2 Letters of recommendation – 1 academic preferred

Resume – optional

Diversity Statement – optional

Addenda – as required

Transcripts

All applicants must register for the LSAC Credential Assembly Service (CAS) in order for us to access undergraduate and/or prior graduate degree transcripts. For more information about the CAS, please call 215.968.1001 or visit www.LSAC.org.

Personal Statement

Although academic history and the LSAT score are very important in the application review process, the personal statement is a vital factor as well. The personal statement should be no more than three pages, typed, and double-spaced. Focus on your accomplishments, skills, experiences, and motivation that indicate potential for success in law school. Include any information such as extracurricular activities, career plans, leadership ability, or anything else that will help the Admission Committee gain a clear and accurate picture of you as an individual. No single item in an applicant's file defines the outcome of an admission decision. Please allow 4-5 weeks for a decision to be rendered once your file is complete.

Letters of Recommendation

We require that letters of recommendation be sent through LSAC's Credential Assembly Service. Please do not send duplicate letters directly to us. At least one letter should be from a recent professor or employer.

Rolling Admissions

Western State reviews applications and renders admission decisions on a rolling basis until the class is full. Those who apply on or before the priority deadline will receive first consideration for scholarship awards. Admission to the law school becomes more competitive after the priority deadline has passed.

International Students

Contact the Admission Office for information regarding student visas and foreign credential evaluations.





Earn a Juris Doctor (J.D.) Degree

Full-time or Part-Time

Western State offers the flexibility of full-time day, part-time day and part-time evening programs.

87 units are required to graduate. The full-time program normally takes three years to complete, attending two academic terms per year; while the part-time program takes four years, including summers.

Admission requirements are the same for the part-time and the full-time program.

Program of Study

Full-Time Fall Start

Year 1	Fall	Introduction to Legal Methods Legal Writing and Research 1 Civil Procedure 1 Contracts 1 Criminal Law Torts
	Spring	Legal Writing and Research 2 Civil Procedure 2 Contracts 2 Property 1 Torts 2
Year 2	Fall	Constitutional Law 1 Criminal Procedure OR Elective Evidence OR Business Associations Professional Responsibility Property 2
	Spring	Constitutional Law 2 Criminal Procedure OR Electives Evidence OR Business Associations Electives
Year 3	Fall	Community Property Estates Sales Electives
	Spring	Remedies Electives

Full-Time Spring Start

Year 1	Spring	Introduction to Legal Methods Legal Writing and Research 1 Property 1 Contracts 1 Criminal Law
	Summer	Contracts 2
	Fall	Legal Writing and Research 2 Civil Procedure 1 Torts 1 Property 2 Constitutional Law 1
Year 2	Spring	Torts 2 Civil Procedure 2 Constitutional Law 2 Electives
	Fall	Criminal Procedure Evidence OR Business Associations Professional Responsibility Electives
Year 3	Spring	Remedies Evidence OR Business Associations Electives
	Fall	Estates Sales Community Property Electives

Part-Time Fall Start

Year 1	Fall	Introduction to Legal Methods Legal Writing and Research 1 Contracts 1 Torts 1
	Spring	Legal Writing and Research 2 Contracts 2 Torts 2
	Summer	Electives
Year 2	Fall	Civil Procedure 1 Criminal Law Constitutional Law 1
	Spring	Civil Procedure 2 Constitutional Law 2 Property 1
	Summer	Electives Professional Responsibility
Year 3	Fall	Evidence OR Business Associations Property 2 Electives
	Spring	Evidence OR Business Associations Criminal Procedure Elective
	Summer	Community Property Electives
Year 4	Fall	Sales Electives
	Spring	Remedies Electives

Part-Time Spring Start

Year 1	Spring	Introduction to Legal Methods Legal Writing and Research 1 Contracts 1 Criminal Law
	Summer	Contracts 2
	Fall	Torts 1 Civil Procedure 1 Legal Writing and Research 2
Year 2	Spring	Torts 2 Civil Procedure 2 Property 1
	Summer	Electives
Year 3	Fall	Property 2 Constitutional Law 1 Evidence OR Business Associations
	Spring	Constitutional Law 2 Criminal Procedure Electives
	Summer	Electives Professional Responsibility
	Fall	Evidence OR Business Associations Electives
Year 4	Spring	Remedies Elective
	Summer	Estates Community Property
	Fall	Sales Electives



Tuition | 2023-2024 Academic School Year

Full Time (12-16 Units)	\$24,520/Semester (Fall or Spring)
Part Time (1-10 Units)	\$16,380/Semester (Fall or Spring)

Overload* and Summer Units are charged at \$1,638/unit

*Overload is more than 16 units for full-time students and more than 10 units for part-time students

In addition, each student will be assessed the following non-refundable fees each semester:

Registration Fee (Every Semester).....	\$50
Student Activity Fee (Every Fall and Spring).....	\$80
ASP Fee (Full Time).....	\$274
ASP Fee (Part Time).....	\$205.50

Other miscellaneous non-refundable fees include:

Application Fee	Waived this Year
Graduation Fee.....	\$50
Diploma Fee.....	\$20
STRF Fee*.....	\$2.50 per \$1,000 of institutional charges

*The State of California created the Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) to relieve or mitigate economic losses suffered by students in educational programs who are California residents, or are enrolled in a residency program, while attending certain schools regulated by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education.

Scholarships and Financial Aid*

Our student finance office is devoted to helping you finance your law school education successfully.

Scholarships

- Western State offers generous merit-based tuition scholarships for new students which may range from 10% up to 100% of tuition based on past academic achievement. Continuing students can earn scholarships each year based on WSCL academic performance.
- All admitted students are automatically reviewed for scholarship consideration; no special application is required.
- It is a distinct advantage to apply early, as available scholarship funds may be limited later in the enrollment cycle.
- Scholarships are annual awards payable half in the fall semester and half in the spring semester as long as the student maintains good standing and meets all other criteria.
- Scholarships after 1st year of law school are awarded based upon law school performance (GPA).
- Diversity Scholarships are available to selected entering students who meet admission requirements and demonstrate how their unique backgrounds, lived experiences, or uncommon perspectives would help make a distinctive contribution to our law school.

Financing Options Available

At Western State we administer a variety of financial aid programs designed to enable you to pursue your legal education.

- Tuition scholarships, Federal and credit-based private loan programs may all be part of a student's financial strategy. Most law students use one or more sources to meet their educational and living expenses while in law school.
- In addition, students should expect to provide part of their own support from resources such as savings, help from parents, spouse or other family members, and employment.
- The part-time program at Western State provides an opportunity to study law with a lighter course of study over a four-year period. Part-time students may be employed full-time and many are able to earn enough to cover living expenses and borrow funds for tuition, fees, and books only.



Financial Aid Counseling Available

To assure that you understand all of the resources that may be available to you, Western State encourages applicants to meet with student finance staff to discuss individual needs as soon as possible. They will assist you in avoiding unnecessary delays and funding limitations by familiarizing you with all the necessary forms and deadlines. Only U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens may receive institutional scholarships, federal loans, and federal work study funds. Other restrictions may also apply.

**For more information, please call
(714)459-1119**

*Financial Aid is available to those who qualify.

TOP 6 REASONS TO CONSIDER WSCL



“One of the best things about Western State is the staff! I went into Student Services at least once a week to have lunch or hang out with those wonderful ladies! They offer fantastic advice, tell great stories, and truly care about each and every student!”

Courtney Martin | Class of 2018

1 **Great Learning Environment**
Western State is a private law school with about 300 students, a strong alumni base, and ties to the legal community. Accessible faculty, small class sizes, diverse campus community, highly supportive atmosphere, and personal attention help law students succeed. Western State emphasizes rigorous academics, building practical skills, and making professional contacts throughout law school.



2 **Accomplished Faculty**
Professors are teaching-oriented, encourage an open-door policy, and have practice experience, as well as, outstanding academic credentials. The student/faculty ratio is less than 7 to 1, so there is ample opportunity for individual help and feedback. Our Academic Success program provides support from before the start of law school through preparation for the bar exam.

3

Real World, Hands-On Experiences

The Business Law Center, Criminal Law Practice Center, Externships, Moot Court, Mock Trial, Negotiations Team, Law Review, and other programs provide students with practical experience that builds skills for legal practice and enhances their professional resume.



4

Reputation

Over 12,000 of Western State's graduates have distinguished themselves as judges, lawmakers, district attorneys, public defenders, civil practitioners, and across the spectrum of business enterprise. Alumni are a driving force behind our good career placement record and the many externship and practical opportunities available to our students. Our graduates enter the workforce well-prepared and well-connected.

5

Wonderful Location

Western State College of Law is located in beautiful Orange County, California. The area enjoys a year-round Mediterranean climate, a diverse culture, a dynamic economy, and an active legal job market. Other attractions include a wealth of recreational activities and financial institutions based in Southern California. The law school is located in the suburban residential community of Irvine, just a short ride to the most beautiful beaches, and close to shopping centers and entertainment venues.



6

Generous Merit Scholarships

Entering students with strong undergraduate academic records and good LSAT or GRE scores are considered for scholarship awards, which may range from 10% to 100% of tuition. No special application is required. Continuing students, who perform well academically in law school, may be eligible for new or increased scholarship awards.



WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW

AT WESTCLIFF UNIVERSITY

Orange County's Longest Running Law School
Founded in 1966

16715 Von Karman Ave | Suite 100 | Irvine, California 92606
714.459.1101 | wsulaw.edu | adm@wsulaw.edu



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Western State College of Law at Westcliff University is fully accredited by the American Bar Association (321 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60610, (312) 988-5000). See www.wsulaw.edu for program duration, tuition, fees, and other costs, median debt, salary data, alumni success, and other important info. Programs, credential levels, technology and scheduling options are subject to change.

Western State College of Law at Westcliff University, 16715 Von Karman Ave, Suite 100, Irvine, California 92606
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