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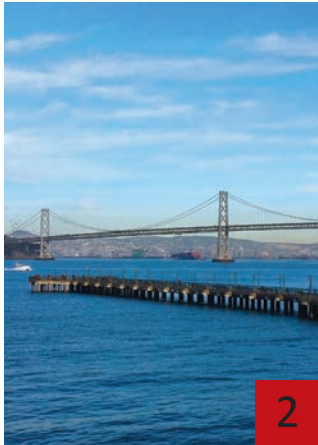
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ALUMNI

Highlights

Holiday Edition 2013





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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Your Alumni Newsletter

1111 N. State College Blvd. | Fullerton | CA 92831
www.wsulaw.edu :: 714.459.1139

Editor-in-Chief

James B. Cheydleur

Design

Rodney J. Espinoza

Contributing Photographers

Rodney J. Espinoza

Contributing Editors

Claire Broderick

James B. Cheydleur

Pamela Davidson

Tim Mallory

ADVERTISERS

For more information regarding placing advertisements in Alumni Highlights, please contact:

714.459.1139

alumni@wsulaw.edu

WRITERS

Would you like to contribute to Alumni Highlights? Have an idea for an article? Please contact:

714.459.1139

alumni@wsulaw.edu

READERS

Your feedback is valuable to us. Please contact us with any ideas or suggestions by phone or email.

714.459.1139

alumni@wsulaw.edu

A Message from the Dean

In the latter part of September, I had the pleasure of attending the Western State's Hall of Fame Gala, at which several hundred alumni gathered to honor four of their most distinguished members and support the cause of student scholarships. The four honorees, Patricia Lee-Gulley, Solange Ritchie, Douglas Schroeder, and Eric Traut, truly exemplified the leadership and service mandates of the Hall of Fame; they emerged from diverse backgrounds, each with their own struggles, and made their communities and their profession better for their having been here.

I take some satisfaction that the education they received at College of Law may have been a crucible for the lawyers they became.

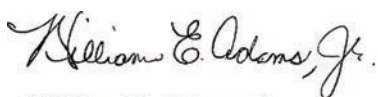
I often think that the mission of Western State is the narrative of the American dream writ local. Two eminent alumni judges, John Nguyen and Francisco Firmat retired this year. They were forced to flee societies during times of chaos and arrived in this country as refugees. As they rose in their professional lives, they committed themselves to the improvement of the County and the lives of its most vulnerable members.

Last month, the Orange County legal community came out in force to pay homage to Judge John Nho Truong Nguyen who retired this month after twelve eventful years on the bench as Orange County's first Vietnamese American Superior Court Judge. He was a congressman and supreme court justice in his native Vietnam when the country descended into chaos. He started over again in the US, and his struggles as an émigré affected the kind of judge he became, and the extent to which he believed the courts could ensure a just society.

Judge Francisco Firmat's family fled the persecution of Castro's Cuba, and they were broken apart, with Francisco being raised in an orphanage for a time. During his tenure on the bench, he developed a national reputation for opening the courts to the poor, the unrepresented, and those on the margins of society.

Both men's professional lives were informed by their refugee experience and given volition by those influential teachers, mentors, and colleagues who they encountered at critical moments of their lives.

I would encourage you to think of your law school as not just a provider of legal education, but as an important community resource. It is at such a resource that dreams are born or find fruition, and that lives are given form or are remade. In this season of giving thanks, I suggest you remember those with whom you shared your law school experience, those who taught you, those who supported you, and those many, many clients in whose lives you made a difference. And remember the homeless, the stateless, and the refugees.



William E. Adams, Jr.

Dean and Vice Chancellor, Western State College of Law



WESTERN STATE MAKES WAVES IN THE BAY AREA

On November 13th, on a brisk, clear night in San Francisco, Western State hosted its first Bay Area Alumni Network Mixer. Recent and seasoned alumni mixed and mingled while sipping hand-selected local wines. The occasion, held at the Waterfront Restaurant, at Pier 7 of the Embarcadero, was part of an ongoing initiative to bring outlying alumni communities together.

Western State now has hundreds of graduates living and working in Northern California; the attendees came from the East Bay, Marin County, the Peninsula, and the Silicon Valley. Medical malpractice attorney, Frank Hardiman travelled all the way from Salinas. Some, like Jeff Guarerra, Christina Luz, and Jill Lin, are recent graduates who have decided to start their careers in the San Francisco region.

Philip Green, a 1979 graduate who lives in Marin County attended with his wife and son, himself a recent law school graduate, said “I hope this becomes an annual event.” Dean Bill Adams concurred, and planing for a 2014 Bay Area Alumni Network Mixer is underway.



Philip Green (Class of 1979) and family



From left to right:
Behrooz Shariati (Class of 1994), Craig Nevin (Class of 1987), Dean Adams, Philip Green (Class of 1979), and Bob Reyff (Class of 1976)



Jill Lin (Class of 2013)



Spring Admits Dinner Event

November 14, 2013

Admitted Students Mingle With Faculty, Staff and Alumni

My Fellow Alumni,

The Western State Admissions Team would like to thank two young alumnae, Michelle Birtja (class of 2011) and Andrea Fernandez (class of 2013), who joined a dinner for new students recently admitted to the spring 2014 incoming class. The November 14th dinner at Zov's Bistro in Tustin enabled new students and their guests to meet with alumni and members of the faculty in a relaxed social setting while discussing our law school, the practice of law, and career opportunities for their future. Sharing their personal experiences, enthusiasm and encouragement, Michelle and Andrea made our new admitted students feel welcome, hopeful and motivated to join the Western State community. As a Western State alumna, I am very proud of our young graduates and how well they reflect on our law school.

We also thank Dean Sheppard, Professor Koppel, Professor Warkentine, and Professor Chavez for taking the time to join us. Our professors' accessibility, friendliness and concern for students was clearly demonstrated as the event provided an opportunity for spring admits and family members to meet the faculty off campus on a more social, personal level.

The feedback I've gotten from the students and their guests who attended has been outstanding—all positive, reinforcing their decision to attend Western State. Faculty interactions with all the guests were encouraging to those who are still anxiety ridden about attending law school and incurring debt at a time when the public media has raised concerns.

I think this event can be labeled as a total success, and my gratitude goes

out to those who attended for assisting me in this endeavor. **Alumni support in outreach to prospective students is very important;** about 20% of each entering class has a connection to an alumnus or alumna. Please encourage and refer the promising aspiring law students you know to consider Western State and get involved to help them make a successful transition into the legal profession.

Respectfully,
Rhonda Cohen
Assistant Director of Admissions
Western State Class of 1984



2013 HALL OF FAME GALA DINNER



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LEGAL SOLUTIONS



On Saturday, September 28th, alumni and friends of Western State gathered from throughout the state at the Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach to honor four alumni attorneys, Patricia Lee-Gulley, Solange Ritchie, Douglas Schroeder and Eric Traut, who were inducted into the Western State Hall of Fame in recognition of their lifelong contributions toward the betterment of their communities.

Among the event's activities were a casino night and a silent and live auction, which along with generous sponsorships and contributions from the evening's guests, raised substantial funds for student scholarships, and provided ample evidence to the students in attendance of the alumni's commitment to their futures. When giving really mattered, the alumni in attendance, their guests, and the alumni host committee did not hesitate to meet the challenge.

After the event, Honoree, Douglas W. Schroeder commented on his induction into the Western State Hall of Fame:

"It's especially an honor when you consider who else is in the Hall of Fame. Not only my friends—Pat, Solange and Eric—who were inducted along with me that evening, but consider the group of judges, prominent lawyers and public figures who constitute the Hall of Fame. Talk about a morale-booster: having my name added to that group is making me a little hard to live with around the house."

"It was really pleasing to see Western State host such an impressive event that truly reflects its history and place in the legal community in Southern California. People who were in attendance have gone out of their way to tell me what a wonderful evening it was, and are interested to see what the College of Law will do next. I'm excited and proud to be a part of the Western State legacy."

Witjas Represents at Western State



Not everyone who graduates from law school practices law; some follow different but no less intriguing career paths. On October 4th, talent agent Jeff Witjas (Western State Class of 1979) spoke on campus to a capacity audience of students and alumni about his experience as a Vice President at two of the nation's premiere talent agencies at a seminar sponsored by Western State's Entertainment and Sports Law Society.

Witjas is a Senior Vice President at APA Talent and Literary Agency in Los Angeles. Originally from New Jersey, he found himself applying to Western State after a serendipitous meeting with a tennis student of his who was an acquaintance of Western State's Dean.

He joined the William Morris Agency while in his final year in law school, and continued there until moving to APA.

He has received most of his recent attention for guiding Betty White's newly rejuvenated career, but his list of past and present clients includes Jerry Lewis, Kim Cattrall, Elliott Gould, John O'Hurley, Ed O'Neil, Lewis Black, Kobe Bryant, Del Harris, Reggie Miller, Gary Shandling, Bill Maher, Mark Harmon, Lance Henriksen, Jason Momoa, Jason Beghe, and Ed Helms. He has said that he utilizes his law school background in negotiating deals for his clients and working with outside entertainment lawyers. "Western State presented to me the opportunity that I took advantage of—and parlayed into a very successful career."

He attributes his success to his absolute dedication to the interests of his clients, his reputation for honesty and integrity in advising his clients, and his savvy negotiating with businesses on the other side of the deal. Witjas calls his profession "one of the most exciting jobs anyone can have" and credits his law background for giving him "the balance and the ability to be reasonable and understanding" in a complex business.



Neil Pedersen Presents Solo Practice Tips



Western State alum, Neil Pedersen (Class of 1988) shared his experience and expertise on building a successful solo practice with a roomful of entrepreneurial-minded students and graduates on November 13. On campus armed

with a PowerPoint covering the top "10 Things to Know before Opening Your Own Law Firm," Neil covered all aspects of how to start, grow, and manage a solo or small law practice. Topics included how to brand one's practice specialty, learning effective time management, and working with clients. He also covered quality of life issues such as boundaries between work and home and establishing a solid support system.

Neil is a Hall of Fame inductee (2010) and was the Editor-in-Chief of Law Review during his time at Western State. He is currently a principal of the litigation firm of

Pedersen McQueen in Irvine, and an adjunct professor of Employment Law and Law Practice Management and Technology at Western State.

For additional resources, contact Lei Zhang, Reference Librarian of Western State's Library at LZhang@wsulaw.edu or at 714.459.1177. Lei has compiled a resource list for Solo Practitioners containing websites, blogs, online articles, and books on everything from start-up logistics to marketing to managing firm finances.

Alumni Kudos



Gregory Bentley

Gregory Bentley (Class of 1990) of Shernoff Bidart Bentley Echeverria was presented with the Top Gun Trial Lawyer Award (for success versus government entities) by the Orange County Trial Lawyers at the organization's Annual Top Gun Awards Dinner on November 23rd at the Montage in Laguna Beach.



John Burns

John Burns (Class of 1978) of San Juan Capistrano won a \$200,000 verdict, in *Castaneda v. Choi*, on behalf of his client who sustained injuries after being rear-ended.



Benjamin Berkley

Benjamin Berkley (Class of 1977) was the subject of an article in the October 13th issue of *The Orange County Register* on the perils of remarrying impulsively after divorce. He is a family law practitioner in Fullerton, and author of *Before You Say "I Do" Again: A Buyer's Guide to Remarriage*.



Scott Dickinson

Scott Dickinson (Class of 1985), of ADR Services, was recently named as one of California's top neutrals by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*.



Thomas Dillard

Thomas Dillard (Class of 1976), of Judicate West, was recently named one of California's top neutrals by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*.



Jacqueline Goodman

Jacqueline Goodman (Class of 1992) authored an article "And Just Like That, A New Cause of Action" on the issue of liability while texting and driving, that appeared in the September 5th issue of the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*. She also authored "There Ought to Be a Law Against That," also for the *Journal*, in the November 18th issue, exploring the fate of a man in Texas who spent 25 years wrongfully incarcerated when a prosecutor withheld exculpatory evidence.

Alumni Kudos



Stuart Goodman

Stuart Goodman (Class of 1990) has been appointed Business Development Manager for Duane Morris LLP where he manages the business development and client satisfaction programs for the Corporate Practice Groups and the Business Reorganization and Financial Restructuring Practice Group. He is formerly an executive account manager for Lexis-Nexis/Martindale Hubbell.



Diane Karpman

Diane Karpman (class of 1974), principal of Karpman & Associates, was installed as President of the Beverly Hills Bar Association on October 1st at the Los Angeles Four Seasons Hotel, with Presiding California Court of Appeals Justice Arthur Gilbert administering the oath.



Ursula Kennedy

Ursula Kennedy (Class of 1985) was among the honorees at Breaking the Glass Ceiling, a fundraiser put on by the Orange County Chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus. She is the former two-time mayor and three-time mayor *pro tem* of Tustin, where she also served on many districts and commissions.



Ryu Kim

Ryul Kim (Class of 1983) has published *Laws of Korea* through the US-Korea Law Foundation, in English and Korean, both bound and on-line, available at Amazon.



Pearl Mann

Pearl Mann (Class of 1985) is the co-author, along with Karen Goodman, of "When Essential Skills Begin to Decline," about the so-called 'silver tsunami' overtaking the legal profession, in the October 10th issue of the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*.



Bradley McGirr

Bradley McGirr (Class of 1985), of La Follette, Johnson, DeHaas, Fesler, & Ames, has been appointed Planning Commissioner of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita.

Alumni Kudos



Shawn Nelson

Shawn Nelson (Class of 1996), Supervisor of Orange County, was recently named Orange County's Best Politician by *OC Weekly Magazine* in its "Best of 2013 Issue."



Michelle Reinglass

Michelle Reinglass (Class of 1978) was recently named as one of California's top neutrals by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*.



William Shapiro

William Shapiro (Class of 1978) of Robinson Calcagnie Robinson Shapiro Davis was presented with the Top Gun Trial Lawyer Award (for success in personal injury) by the Orange County Trial Lawyers at the organization's Annual Top Gun Awards Dinner on November 23rd at the Montage in Laguna Beach.



Mark Smith

Mark Smith (Class of 1991) has been named Chief Executive Officer and Director of NioCorp Developments Ltd. of Vancouver, a miner of niobium, a critical rare earth element in the manufacture of strategic alloys.

Commissioner Diane Anderson

Commissioner Diane Anderson (Class of 1986) of the San Bernardino County Superior Court was the subject of a featured profile in the October 16th issue of the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*.



Connie R. Quinones

Connie R. Quinones (Class of 1990), formerly of the Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender's Office, has been appointed Judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court by Governor Brown.

Robert Wada

Robert Wada (Class of 1980) was a featured speaker on Probate at the Los Angeles Paralegal Association's annual educational conference, Advancing the Profession Through Continuing Education. Wada is Supervising Probate Attorney for the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Evan Field

Evan Field (Class of 2011) has been commissioned with the United States Marine Corps Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Faculty Highlights



Professor Myanna Dellinger

Myanna Dellinger's upcoming law review article, "Narrowed Constellations in a Supranational Climate Change Regime Complex: The 'Magic Number' is Four," was presented at the annual American Society of International Law Research Forum, held at NYU Law School. Dellinger represented WSCL at the United Nations headquarters at the reception that followed. The article will be published in the *Fordham International Law Journal* in 2014.

In addition, Dellinger wrote three other articles this year: "Localizing the Law of Climate Change," 14 *Min. J. L. Sci. & Tech.* 603 (2013); "An Unstoppable Tide: Creating Environmental and Human Rights Law from the Bottom Up," *Oregon Review of International Law*, Volume 15, Issue 2 (2013); and "That's Wild! The Ongoing International Trade in Endangered Species," *OC Lawyer Magazine* (Dec. 2013).



Professors Glenn Koppel and Ryan Williams

Professors Glenn Koppel and Ryan Williams have partnered with Media Alerts, a project of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Federal Judicial Improvements, to enlist the aid of students in researching and publicizing important cases that originate in the California courts of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Media Alerts coordinates the efforts of faculty members and students from law schools throughout the United States to cover the activities of the circuit courts.



Professor Jennifer Koh

Professor Jennifer Koh spoke on a panel: "Delivering Immigration Services to the Masses and Reaching the Most Vulnerable Communities" at the recent Advancing Justice Conference, sponsored by Asian Americans Advancing Justice, in Los Angeles.



Professor Robert Molko

Professor Robert Molko authored "The Drones Are Coming! Will the Fourth Amendment Stop Their Threat to Our Privacy?" for the *Brooklyn Law Review*: 78 *Brook. L. Rev.* 1279, (2013).



Professor Eunice Park

Professor Eunice Park has authored "Plain Language': Practical Tips for How to Make It Not So Plain," *Clarity: Journal of the International Association Promoting Plain Legal Language*: Issue No. 70, November 2013.

Judge John Nho Nguyen Retires from the Bench

We proudly congratulate Western State alumnus and Hall of Famer, Judge John Nho Trong Nguyen (Class of 1988) on the conclusion of his distinguished career as a Judge on the Orange County Superior Court. Western State was present to honor Judge Nguyen on November 18, at the gala dinner celebrating his retirement from the bench.

Judge Nguyen was the first Vietnamese Judge to serve in Orange County. He was inducted to the Western State Hall of Fame in 2001 and awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Western State College in 2008. Judge Nguyen has also taught at Western State as an adjunct faculty member.

So proud to celebrate the legal career of such an alumnus who is accomplished and esteemed, and whose “lifetime of dedication” has been an inspiration for all, Western State wishes Judge and Mrs. Nguyen all the best as they transition from a life of service into their well-earned retirement.



1L MOOT COURT COMPETITION - WE WANT YOU!



From left to right: Prof. Park, Lynet' Shigg, Korry Huffman, Kylie Starr, Manolo Madela, Virginia Ksadzhikeyan, Giselle Garcia, Alex Shaaban, Judge Michael Libutti, Dean Adams, Oliver Burchill, Kaitlyn Daley, Suzie Kersh, Gabrielle Ibrahim, Prof. Roberts, and Prof. Todd

Legal Writing & Research introduces first-year students to the foundational analytical, writing, and research skills that are necessary for success in law practice. Students research various legal issues and write memoranda, settlement letters and court briefs, and are introduced to concepts of client centered representation and ethical issues related to advocacy. The year-long course culminates in a 1L Moot Court Competition during which every student argues in Western State's Darras Moot Court Room before a panel of three practicing lawyers and judges, most of whom are Western State alumni.

It's very exciting for our students to conduct their final oral arguments in front of practicing attorneys, and having alumni preside over the arguments makes it extra special for them.

If you would like more information about participating as a judge in this event, please contact Professor Lori Roberts, Director of Legal Writing & Research at loroberts@wsulaw.edu. Your involvement helps our Legal Writing & Research program grow and thrive!

Western State Students Serve the Community

A SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK

The students at Western State performed a wide range of charitable, service and educational activities throughout this semester's Public Service Week (Oct. 21 - 25). The activities included reaching out to legal services and charitable organizations to provide student volunteers, donating blood, training to provide bone marrow registry services, and probably most importantly, devising programs to take their service mission into the community. Students created a carnival for the residents of Orangewood Children's Home, a county facility for abused and neglected children; they prepared meals for residents of local shelters; they collected school supplies for local public schools.

The events were coordinated by Heather Grumbine and the Student Body Association's Public Service Committee, along with the executive boards of a number of student organizations, including the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, the Criminal Law Association, the Jewish Law Students Association, the Muslim Law Students Association, Outlaw, and the Public Interest Law Foundation. The student body performed nearly 400 hours of service during the week, making it among the most successful programs the SBA has produced since creating Public Service Week in 2010.

Operation Helping Hands



"This year we are aiming to fill and have our youth hand-deliver 1000 backpacks directly into the hands of our homeless... We are proud to announce that in addition to Orange County, San Diego County and Los Angeles County, this year we will also be servicing the Inland Empire."

– Kim A. Valentine Western State Class of 1997
Valentine Law Group, APC

For more info and to view photos of past projects: www.operationhelpinghandsocal.org



From left to right:
Daren Gottlieb (Class of 2013), Kurtis Urien (Class of 2013), Dennis Stubblefield, Kaley Schafer (Class of 2013), Martha Suarez Ballesteros (Class of 2013), and Casey Koone (Class of 2012)

OCBA with Professor Dennis Stubblefield

The Solo Practitioner/Small Firm Section of the Orange County Bar Association enthusiastically welcomed five Western State graduates to their October section luncheon meeting at the Radisson Hotel in Newport Beach. Featured guest speaker and Western State alum, David W. Klasing (Class of 2008), of the Tax Law Office of David W. Klasing, delivered an enlightening presentation on tips and traps of effective year-end tax planning with the theme: "Avoidance is good, evasion is bad!"

The graduates in attendance were Daren Gottlieb, Kurtis Urien, Kaley Schafer, Casey Koone, and Martha Suarez Ballesteros. Dennis Stubblefield graciously made arrangements for the graduates to be hosted by the section group, allowing them to attend at no charge. Thank you, Professor Stubblefield!

Request to alumni who are members of the OCBA:
Are you interested in hosting students and graduates to your section meetings? If so, please contact Pam in Career Services at pdavidson@wsulaw.edu or 714.459.1106.

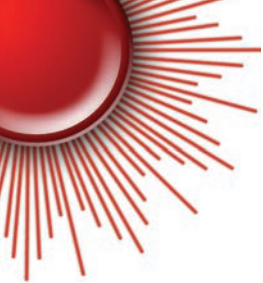
New Membership with the OCBA

Thanks to the leadership and vision of Dean Bill Adams, in November Western State became an organizational member with the Orange County Bar Association (OCBA). This level of membership allows all current students and 2013 graduates to become full members of the OCBA at no additional cost to them through December 2014. Throughout 2013 and 2014, each will have the benefit of attending section meetings free of charge and OCBA-sponsored events at reduced rates.

This amazing opportunity presents new avenues for our students to participate in OCBA mixers, events, and collaborations with affiliate bar associations, and to enjoy special events specifically targeted to law students and recent graduates. Additionally, with the participation of other law schools, including Whittier, Chapman and UCI, the organizational membership status allows Western State students to meet and develop professional ties with other law students in the Southern California area.

Alumni: Would you be interested in hosting Western State students at your Section Meeting events? If so, please contact Pam Davidson in Career Services at pdavidson@wsulaw.edu.

We look forward to seeing you at the Bar (Association, that is!).



Western State Career Services

Request for Mentoring Programs

Are you a member of a professional group or affiliation that provides mentoring programs and opportunities for law students? If so, we'd like to hear from you!

Mentoring is a meaningful avenue for our students to meet with and interact with attorneys in the Southern California legal community.

Please contact Pam Davidson in Career Services to pass along information on opportunities that would create an open door for Western State students. Contact: pdavidson@wsulaw.edu or 714.459.1106.

IP Mentor Wanted!

A current 2L student is interested in exploring international summer internship opportunities in IP.

Call 714.459.1106



Anabella Bonfa (Class of 1994) and Vikram Reddy



Intellectual Property and Trademark Secrets Litigation

Western State welcomed back alumna Anabella Bonfa (Class of 1994) an experienced and intrepid trade secret litigator, who joined forces with Vikram Reddy of Wu & Cheung, LLP, of Irvine, presenting an intriguing look at intellectual property laws and litigation to over 30 students on November 7.

Anabella, of Wellman & Warren, LLP, in Laguna Hills, shared not only her in-depth knowledge of the basics of trademark secret law, but also war stories of taking make-it-or-break-it cases to trial. In one case, she helped her client win back stolen client records that, had they not been recovered, would have bankrupted the family company. Going up against a team of O'Melveny litigators, she prevailed on her client's behalf and saved the company.

Vikram provided an overview of intellectual property law, discussing the major areas of trademarks, patents, copyright, trade dress, and trade secrets. His discussion also included new applications and laws impacting this dynamic practice area, and insight into how to examine a case for potential intellectual property infraction. For anyone interested in pursuing a career in IP law, this was a presentation not to be missed!

Both speakers stayed long after the presentation's conclusion to speak with students, answer questions, and to extend offers of advice and mentoring. Thank you, Anabella and Vik – we look forward to having you return next semester!

Hire Right the First Time – Hire from Western State

Employers: Are you looking for skills-ready law clerks, associate attorneys, or experienced alumni? Join hundreds of employers in the Southern California area by looking to Western State first when searching for candidates to join your law firm or company.

Job orders are easy to submit: Contact Pam Davidson in Career Services at pdavidson@wsulaw.edu or 714.459.1106 to have your opening posted on Symplicity the same day, quickly and easily.

We look forward to finding your next great hire!

Professors & Students Complete Marathon



Professor Philip Merkel and three of his Torts I students, Lauren Calhoon, Lauren Ruvalcaba and Jamie Newton, completed the Long Beach ICB Half Marathon on October 13, 2013.

Professor Jennifer Koh also ran the 13.1 mile course. Pictured after the finish are (from the left) Ms. Newton, Prof. Merkel, and Ms. Ruvalcaba.

Western State Raises Over \$1,500 to Aid Haiyan Survivors

Western State students banded together to help raise funds for Typhoon Haiyan survivors and has joined forces with other OC Law Schools to raise funds for survivors through the Red Cross.

If you would like to make a contribution, please click the link below:

www.redcross.org/cm/whittierlaw-pub

Then and Now



1984 November Student Picnic:
Alumni Dennis Sanchez and Steve Weinberger



2013 November Student BBQ:
Students Paul Burgess and Justin Kays

Immigration Clinic Students Score Victory



Last week, Kristalyn Bautista (left) and Angel Lalama (right), third-year law students who are enrolled this semester in the Advanced Immigration Clinic, each represented a client before the Los Angeles Immigration Court in bond hearings. Their clients were detained under the federal immigration laws, and the purpose of the bond hearings was

to convince an Immigration Judge that the clients were neither a flight risk nor a danger to the community. Both students' performances—which included direct examinations, and closing arguments – produced amazing results for the clients: in Kris's case, her HIV+ client was released on an ankle bracelet and was able to spend Thanksgiving with his family. Ange's client was given a bond, making it possible for him to return home to his wife and family. Both clients will continue to fight their deportations in immigration court, but the results of the bond hearings will enable them to do so

while not being physically incarcerated in an immigration detention facility.

Both were supervised in these cases by Professor Munmeeth Soni, staff attorney at the Public Law Center and adjunct professor in the Western State Immigration Clinic.

Said Kris: "This was the best experience of my law school career."

Said Angel: "I never imagined being able to help people with their real cases while still in law school."



Colleagues in Law

A Celebration of Alumni Achievement

Thomas P. Stabile
Class of 1971



Thomas P. Stabile is a certified family law specialist and one of the deans of the Orange County family law bar. He has occupied a wide range of leadership positions within the state and local bar including chair of the Family Law Section of the Orange County Bar Association, President of the Southern California Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and member of the Family Law Executive Committee of the State Bar. He has taught and lectured widely and was an adjunct professor at Western State for three years.

We recently spoke to Mr. Stabile just prior to his leaving for a conference in Buenos Aires of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, an organization of the elite of the world's family law bar, of which he is a former U.S. Chapter President, and one of only six Orange County attorneys named as IAML fellows.

What do you like most about the practice of law?

I practice outside the office, in the courtroom, and inside as a transactional lawyer. I enjoy learning the law. Bench officers know that if I say something, they can count on it. I recently made a presentation on the new rules of court. A lot of judges attended and I think they were surprised at how much they learned.

How do you view Western State's position in the legal community?

Now it's great. When I was starting, if you went up against somebody from an Ivy League school, they had never heard of Western State. Now it's on par with the most reputable schools. It is now recognized by other schools as a powerhouse. The faculty is a good blend of academicians and practitioners—and you really need both.

What are your favorite memories?

I was personally selected by Dean Boas to be in charge of CBR Bar review. I remember receiving a personal phone call from the dean, informing me that I had passed the bar. My wife had a pair of cufflinks engraved with that date. They remain my favorites. I also taught students at Western State for three years. I was so impressed by them. They were like sponges – and they all wanted to do well by their clients.

In fond Memory



We are very sorry to announce our dear OCWLA Past President and California Women Lawyers Past President Grace Emery passed away this weekend at 89. Grace was a true pillar of our legal community, a wonderful friend and trailblazing female lawyer. She will be missed by us all.

For those who did not know Grace, below are some of her accomplishments, highlighting her commitment to the OC legal community:

- One of the founders of the OC chapter of the Federal Bar Association and a Board member for more than 14 years
- Served as District Governor for CWL from 1990 to 1997 and as its President in 1997-1998
- During her one year presidential term she visited nearly every affiliate
- Member of the JNE Commission
- Member of the Board of Directors of OCWLA for more than 12 years, at one time chairing the Appellate Law Section
- Appointed to several 3-year terms on the State Bar Conference of Delegates Resolution Committee
- For many years spoke at Bridging the Gap and worked on OCBA's Call A Lawyer program
- First recipient of OCWLA's Attorney of the Year (1993)
- Elected to Western State's Hall of Fame in 1994

Grace did not want a "funeral" but there will be a celebration of her life sometime in January. When we find out more details we will pass them along.

Sincerely,

Linda Iannelli
President, Orange County Women Lawyers Association
Western State Class of 1992

Jeffrey Scott Bakerink
(Class of 1986)

Antonia Duldulao
(Class of 1994)

Grace Edith Emery
(Class of 1980 | Hall of Fame 1994)

Cameron Jay Whitehead
(Class of 1989)

Muriel M. Weiner
(Class of 1977)



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