Founded in 1966, Western State College of Law is the oldest law school in Orange County, Southern California, and is fully ABA approved.

Noted for small classes and personal attention from an accessible faculty focused on student success, Western State maintains bar pass rates consistently in the top half of California’s ABA law schools.

Western State’s 11,000+ alumni are well represented across public and private sector legal practice areas, including 150 California judges and about 15% of Orange County’s Deputy Public Defenders and District Attorneys.
Institutional Advancement

The Office of Institutional Advancement provides resources, programs and events to support the academic and professional aspirations of the members of the Western State community. We serve as a conduit for donor support, volunteerism and stewardship which all feed the vibrancy and continued growth of the College of Law.

The Team

James B. Cheydleur
Senior Assistant Dean
Institutional Advancement & Admissions

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Dr. Cynthia Baum
(Ex Officio)
Chancellor, Argosy University

Allen K. Easley
(Ex Officio)
Dean, Western State
Dear Western State Alumni,

The most important thing to remember as Western State prepares for a new academic year, 2018-19, is that this coming year will bring us our 50th graduating class. Yes, 50 years of graduates, over 11,000 alumni, adding success story after success story to the oldest (I prefer most experienced) law school in Orange County.

Throughout this newsletter, you will see stories about the successes of our alumni, beginning with the introduction of our honorees at our September 15 Hall of Fame Gala. But you will also read about the 2018 CLAY Award, which went to our own Kevin Calcagnie and Cynthia Garver, the 2018 OC Lawyer of the Year in Mass Tort/Class litigation, also going to Kevin Calcagnie, the Top 40 Under 40 listing going to Michael Jeandron, and on and on.

Our students are also achieving great things, as you can see from the cover of this newsletter, and several stories inside. And we have some amazing accomplishments of our faculty also highlighted in these pages.

Fall 2018 will be the fourth fall in a row with increased enrollment of new students. We also anticipate an increase in the credentials of our new class. And for the fourth year in a row, we anticipate that well over 50% of our student body will be students of color, one of the reasons we are ranked 5th in the nation in diversity.

One of the benefits of being the oldest, most experienced law school in Orange County is that over the 50 years of our existence, we've had time to generate some great success stories. One recurring success story is about our alumni who have been elevated to the bench. Over our 50 year history we've had over 150 of our alumni appointed to the bench is various locations around the state, including Riverside County, San Bernardino County, LA County, San Diego County, and of course, Orange County. Looking in particular at Orange County, with its 134 active judicial officers, who have graduated from many prestigious law schools around the country, over half of them graduated from one of five law schools located in Southern California. Those five top feeder schools to the Orange County bench, in order from fifth to first place, are San Diego, Pepperdine, UCLA, Loyola, and Western State.

We have a lot of things to celebrate as we approach our 50th Anniversary Hall of Fame Gala celebration this fall. I hope you will join us at that celebration, and various other events throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Allen K. Easley
Dean & Professor of Law
Western State College of Law
This Year’s Honorees

Dayn Holstrom
Class of 1989
Hall of Fame Inductee

Pamela S. Liosi
Class of 1994
Hall of Fame Inductee

The Honorable John Pacheco
Class of 1981
Hall of Fame Inductee

William D. Shapiro
Class of 1978 | Hall of Fame
Lifetime Achievement Honoree

Date: Saturday, September 15, 2018
Location: Balboa Bay Resort, Newport Beach, California
Dress: Black Tie Recommended
Attendees: Over 350 attorneys, judges, honorees and guests
Theme: Casino Night featuring roulette, blackjack and craps
Auction: Silent Auction – NO LIVE AUCTION –

For more information regarding tickets and sponsorships, please contact:
Jim Cheydleur (714-459-1139 or jcheydle@wsulaw.edu)
Meet This Year’s Honored Inductees

Hall of Fame Inductees

Dayn Holstrom  
Class of 1989

Dayn Holstrom has distinguished himself and his team as the number one family law firm in Orange County, Riverside, and San Bernardino. His highly experienced attorneys and support staff are exceedingly knowledgeable and support all of their clients with the heart and determination to see your case through.

Pamela S. Liosi  
Class of 1994

Pamela S. Liosi has over 22 years of experience handling personal injury matters. She is a former partner with Watten, Discoe, Bassett & McMains, an Orange County insurance defense firm, where she practiced for 18 years. Throughout her legal career, Pamela has been involved in numerous jury and bench trials where she represented both plaintiffs and defendants in personal...

The Honorable John Pacheco  
Class of 1981

Admitted to the California Bar in 1984, John M. Pacheco began his legal practice at the Law Offices of Rose, Klein & Marias, specializing in Third Party Litigation. By 1996 John had Partnered with Florentino and Thomas, forming the Law Office of Garza, Garza & Pacheco. Pacheco was appointed in 2001 to serve as a Superior Court Judge in San Bernardino County, first in Joshua Tree, on criminal assignment, then presiding in the Rancho District over a growing array of cases, from...

Lifetime Achievement Honoree

William D. Shapiro  
Class of 1978 | Hall of Fame | Dean’s Counselor

William Shapiro has devoted 4 decades to representing those catastrophically injured and family members who have lost loved ones. Mr. Shapiro a member of the prestigious American Board of Trial Advocates has earned the rank of “Diplomat” – the highest rank a trial lawyer can receive. Mr. Shapiro was invited to become a Fellow in the top exclusive invitation only Trial Lawyer memberships: the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, which is limited to 500 of the best trial lawyers...
Western State has over 11,000 Alumni. Its 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.

**CAREN H. SEENAUTH ACCEPTS POSITION WITH BEST BUY**  
06/28/2018

Caren H. Seenauth (Western state Class of 2014) has accepted a position as Corporate Counsel at Best Buy. Caren will be returning to the very first company to hire her as college grad.

**MICHAEL JEANDRON NAMED TO 2018 TOP 40 UNDER 40!**  
01/29/2018

Michael Jeandron (Western State Class of 2013) was just named to The National Trial Lawyers Top 40 under 40.

**KEVIN CALCAGNIE 2018 OC LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN MASS TORT/CLASS LITIGATION**  
01/29/2018

Kevin Calcagnie (Western State Class of 1982 | Hall of Fame) was recently named 2018 Product Liability Litigation “Plaintiffs Lawyer of the Year” in Orange County by Best Lawyers®.

**WESTERN STATE ALUMNI WIN 2018 CLAY AWARDS**

This Spring, Kevin Calcagnie (Western State Class of 1982 | Hall of Fame) and partner Cynthia Garver (Western State Class of 1999) were co-recipients of the California Lawyer Attorney of the Year Award for 2018. They received the award in the category of Toxic Torts for their work as part of the trial team in Echeverria v. Johnson & Johnson, which resulted in a jury verdict of $417 Million for their client. They were also both recently named to the 2017 Trial Team of the Year by The Trial Lawyer Magazine.
On January 23, Professor Kevin Mohr and Adjunct Professor Neil Pedersen (Class of 1988 | Hall of Fame | Dean's Counselor) joined with Western State alumna and former adjunct professor, Marla Merhab Robinson (Class of 1987 | Dean's Counselor), to present a legal education program at the Orange County Bar Association offices on the Practical and Ethical Issues of Both the Unanticipated and Planned Closures of a Law Practice. The program was completely sold out, reflecting the importance of the topics addressed to a profession confronting the aging and retirement of the Baby Boomer generation. The program has been recorded so that lawyers unable to attend in-person can view and make use of the important guidance provided.

The Western State community congratulates Robert S. Wada (Class of 1980), on his appointment to a judgeship in the Los Angeles County Superior Court by Governor Brown.


Adjunct Professor Yolanda Victoria Torres, who teaches Family Law, has been appointed by the Orange County Bar Association (OCBA) to serve a 3-year term on its Board of Directors commencing January 2018. She also was elected to serve as the President-Elect for the Orange County Hispanic Bar Association (OCHBA), commencing January 2018, and in January 2019, she will serve as its President. Professor Torres hopes to see the OCBA and OCHBA help promote diversity in the legal profession, particularly the bench; continue mentoring students at local law schools like Western State; and connect with affiliate bar associations.

The Western State community would like to congratulate Orange County Trial Lawyers Association Top Gun Award winners, Richard E. Donahoo (Class of 1996) and Brian J. McCormack (Class of 1993 | Hall of Fame).

Jeff Witjas (Class of 1979) Senior Vice President, Talent, Agency of the Performing Arts (APA) delivered the Commencement Address to the Western State College of Law graduating class of 2018. He was born in Brooklyn, NY. He attended Bowling Green State University, majoring in Political Science and receiving a minor in Philosophy. While at BGSU, he was the first President of the Undergraduate Alumni Association, a member of the tennis team, Key King, and Vice-President of the Student Body. In 2014, Jeff was inducted into the Western State College of Law’s Hall of Fame. In 2015, Jeff was the first recipient of the Talent Manager Association's Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence as a Talent Agent at the Heller Awards.
Western State College of Law welcomes new Criminal Justice Student Organization!

Western State College of Law is now home to the Delta Tau Delta Chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society. Many thanks to 3L Emily Gardner, whose hard work and generous spirit were instrumental in bringing this respected national organization to our law school.

On Friday, January 26, Dean Allen Easley and Professor Elizabeth Jones conducted the initiation ceremony for the newest members of Western State's Delta Tau Delta Chapter. Qualifications for student membership include maintaining a minimum 2.5 g.p.a. and upholding the principles of academic excellence, leadership, unity, and service to the criminal justice community. Please join us in recognizing these inspirational students: Emily Gardner (President), Courtney Martin (Vice President), Jackie Uberin (Secretary), Demis Camacho (Treasurer), Alexcis Albert, Cesar Andaya, Alyssa Gossett, Heidi Kim, Daniel McDonald, Cassandra Mellas, Sam Saadat, Valeria Sosa-Sandoval, Amanda Tarby, and Sloane Tay.

Western State College of Law students arguable before Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

On Friday, April 13, 2018, Western State College of Law Immigration Clinic students Greyson Morain and Gabrielle Gilbertson argued before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Greyson and Gabrielle, along with classmate Jennifer Pyka, are enrolled in the Immigration Clinic’s Ninth Circuit Project, and have been representing their client, Machjay Yagao, in a petition before the Ninth Circuit since the beginning of the 2017-18 academic year. Earlier in the year, they researched and wrote opening and reply briefs to the court. The case, Yagao v. Sessions, involves the intersection of criminal and immigration law.


The students were directly supervised by Professor Andrew Knapp (WSCL ’95), adjunct professor with the Immigration Clinic.

Western State students, Kyle Case and Steve Kim, had a great run at the Jerome Prince Evidence Competition at the Brooklyn Law School. They advanced all the way to the final four (out of 35 teams) and lost to the eventual champion. The Western State Team also won the 3rd best brief award.

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Western State had two teams at the Schreck Gaming Law Moot Court Competition at UNLV this weekend: Laura Mergenthaler & Anahi Millot-Audetat (coached by Professor Lori Roberts) and Jennifer Pyka & Luz Ayala (Coached by Professor Cheyana Jaffke). This was our school’s first time attending this competition; both teams were well prepared, argued extremely well, and represented Western State admirably. Jennifer Pyka & Luz Ayala Advanced to the quarter-finals (they were one of the top 8 teams, out of 26 teams participating in the competition!), but unfortunately did not advance to the semi-finals.

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The Western State Law Review recently hosted our First Annual Awards Banquet, recognizing our alumni, faculty, and members for their amazing contributions. This was my last event as Editor-in-Chief, and a perfect way to cap off my term. The banquet itself was fantastic, with over 100 attendees, amazing food, and good vibes all around. Special thanks to the Judicial Officers in attendance and our sponsors!

**Platinum**
The Simon Law Group

**Gold**
Traut Firm

**Silver**
Kubota & Craig

This year, we have been successful in reconnecting with our alumni through networking mixers and the banquet, our fellow students with professionalism workshops and information sessions, and the legal community with our journals and Spring Symposium on Discrimination in the Legal Profession. I have been extremely thankful and am honored to have served as the Editor-in-Chief, especially with a phenomenal Board supporting me. I have nothing but confidence in the next year’s board.

Thank you all for your continued support!

Edwin Hong
2017 — 2018 Editor-in-Chief
NEIL GOTANDA HONORED AS OUTSTANDING ACTIVIST-TEACHER-SCHOLAR AT 2018 JOINT CONFERENCE OF NEPOC AND CAPALF

06/12/2018

Professor Neil Gotanda received the Haywood Burns & Shanara Gilbert Award for Outstanding Activist-Teacher-Scholar at the 2018 Joint Conference of the Northeast People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference (NEPOC) and the Conference of Asian Pacific American Law Faculty (CAPALF). The award is named for Professor and Dean Haywood Burns (CUNY Law School's second Dean) and Professor Shanara Gilbert (founder and co-director of CUNY Law School’s Defender clinic) who were deeply committed to human rights and the struggle against racism and economic and social injustice. The Joint Conference was held on May 31 at Albany Law School, Albany, New York.

LAW REVIEW HONORS PHILIP MERKEL, NEIL PEDERSEN

06/04/2018

The WSCL Law Review named Professor Philip L. Merkel as recipient of its Distinguished Faculty Member Award for the 2017-2018 academic year. It also presented Adjunct Professor Neil Pedersen (Class of 1988 | Hall of Fame | Dean’s Counselor) with its Distinguished Alumni Member Award. The presentations were made at the Law Review’s Awards Banquet, held on April 27 at the Doubletree Hotel in Irvine. Many Law Review alumni as well as current members attended the event.

JENNIFER KOH SERVES ON PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR IMMIGRATION LAW PROFESSORS CONFERENCE; PARTICIPATES IN WORKS-IN-PROGRESS SESSIONS

06/01/2018

From May 24-May 26, Professor Jennifer Koh participated in the Immigration Law Scholars and Teachers Workshop held at the Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law in Philadelphia, PA. As a member of the conference planning committee, she co-organized a portion of the workshop devoted to clinical teaching and advocacy, along with Professor Jennifer J. Lee of Temple Law School. Professor Koh also served as a commentator for a works-in-progress session for law faculty presenting draft papers. Additionally, she presented a draft of her forthcoming article, “When Shadow Removals Collide: Searching for Solutions to the Legal Black Holes Created by Expedited Removal and Reinstatement,” which will be published in the Washington University Law Review later this year.

EUNICE PARK PUBLISHES IN OC LAWYER ON CARPENTER AND THE FOURTH AMENDMENT

05/14/2018

From May 14-May 21, Professor Eunice Park published an article in the Orange County Lawyer titled “Carpenter and the Fourth Amendment.” The article discusses the Supreme Court’s decision in Carpenter v. United States, which establishes the scope of the Fourth Amendment’s protection against unreasonable searches and seizures in the context of cellphone data.

FACULTY ACCOLADES
Professor Eunice Park has published "Protecting the Fourth Amendment After Carpenter in the Digital Age: What Gadget Next?" in the May issue of Orange County Lawyer Magazine. The article notes the tension in the Supreme Court's previous approaches to protecting personal information and observes that the decision in Carpenter v. United States, expected in June, will have significant repercussions for how lower courts will address other technology-based privacy challenges, including law enforcement's use of cell-site simulators. In the meantime, the “reasonable expectation of privacy” paradigm appears to be a shifting one, as entire generations are growing up accustomed to sharing their whereabouts, activities and thoughts on social media.

**JENNIFER KOH AND SABRINA RIVERA PRESENT AT AALS CLINICAL CONFERENCE**

05/08/2018

On April 30, Professors Jennifer Koh and Sabrina Rivera presented at a concurrent session at the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Conference on Clinical Legal Education in Chicago, IL. The annual AALS Clinical Conference is the largest gathering of clinical law professors in the nation. Their session was entitled, “Naming Our Core Values When Teaching and Lawyering in a Time of Crisis,” which explored how clinical legal teaching has been challenged and reinvented during the current period of political turmoil. They delivered the session with co-panelists Professors Kristina Campbell (University of District Columbia) and Katherine Evans (University of Idaho), and also planned the session with Professor Elizabeth Keyes (University of Baltimore).

**JENNIFER KOH SERVES AS AMICUS COUNSEL IN PUBLISHED NINTH CIRCUIT DECISION ON CRIMES INVOLVING MORAL TURPITUDE**

04/12/2018

On April 9, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a published decision involving crimes involving moral turpitude in the immigration context, in a case where Professor Jennifer Koh served as amicus counsel, along with Professor Kari Hong at Boston College Law School, on behalf of law professors and clinicians with expertise in immigration law or experience defending noncitizens in immigration proceedings.

The case, Garcia-Martinez v. Sessions, involved the scope of theft crimes and the immigration law definition of a crime involving moral turpitude, and held that an expanded definition of crimes involving moral turpitude could not retroactively apply to certain theft crimes.

The opinion, written by Judge Ferdinand Fernandez, is available at the following link: http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/

**JOHN OHASHI INTERVIEWED ON CRITICAL MASS FOR BUSINESS RADIO SHOW SERIES**

03/22/2018

Adjunct Professor John Ohashi was a guest on the radio show and podcast, Critical Mass for Business Radio Show Series, hosted by Richard Franzi, on March 20. Professor Ohashi discussed his career, including currently teaching Corporate Finance and Accounting for Lawyers at Western State College of Law.

**WESTERN STATE STUDENTS RECOGNIZE KEVIN MOHR, ELIZABETH JONES, CHEYANNA JAFFKE AND SARAH EGGLESTON WITH 2018 END-OF-YEAR AWARDS**

04/09/2018

Professors Kevin Mohr, Elizabeth Jones, and Cheyanna Jaffke received awards as the 2017-2018 “Professor of the Year” for the 1L, 2L, and 3L classes, respectively. Sarah Eggleston was also recognized as the “Librarian of the Year.” The awards were bestowed by the Executive Board of the Western State Student Bar Association at the College of Law’s annual Barrister’s Ball, held on March 31 at the Disneyland Hotel.

**SABRINA RIVERA PRESENTS AT CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION CONFERENCE**

03/07/2018

Western State Immigration Clinic Staff Attorney, Sabrina Rivera, presented at the 36th Annual Law Day Conference, hosted by the Constitutional Rights Foundation Orange County, to discuss the history of immigration laws and policy. The March 5th event marked the first time in its history that the Conference hosted a panel on immigration laws and policy. The Conference brought together almost 500 Orange County high school students, teachers, judges and attorneys to discuss legal and social issues including immigration policy, freedom of speech on college campuses, rights of the accused on college campuses, and juvenile law.
On February 8, the Western State College of Law Immigration Clinic, led by Professor Jennifer Koh and Sabrina Rivera, was presented with the Community Justice Award by Resilience OC, in recognition of its efforts to help safeguard the due process rights of Santa Ana and Orange County residents.

Resilience is a grassroots, nonprofit organization that has collaborated with the Clinic on immigration advocacy, community outreach and social justice campaigns in Orange County.

Professor Elizabeth Jones has published “Possible Problems at the San Clemente Checkpoint” in the Virginia Journal of Criminal Law, 6 Va. J. Crim. L. 43 (2018). The Article addresses the interplay between the U.S. Supreme Court law governing the immigration checkpoint program and the new, ever-shifting challenges facing the Border Patrol in administering these checkpoints. It examines recent cases originating from vehicle stops at the San Clemente checkpoint, and queries whether the government has been conducting pretextual stops at this checkpoint, and at others in the southwest border zone, to further a larger, arguably unlawful, agenda.

On January 23, Professor Kevin Mohr and Adjunct Professor Neil Pedersen (Class of 1988 | Hall of Fame | Dean's Counselor) joined with Western State alumna and former adjunct professor, Marla Merhab Robinson (Class of 1987 | Dean's Counselor), to present a legal education program at the Orange County Bar Association offices on the Practical and Ethical Issues of Both the Unanticipated and Planned Closures of a Law Practice. The program was completely sold out, reflecting the importance of the topics addressed to a profession confronting the aging and retirement of the Baby Boomer generation. The program has been recorded so that lawyers unable to attend in-person can view and make use of the important guidance provided.

On January 6, Professor Jennifer Koh served as a moderator and speaker for a panel taking place at the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Annual Conference in San Diego, California. The panel, entitled “Immigration Adjudication in an Era of Mass Deportation,” was hosted by the AALS Section on Immigration Law, and examined–and critiqued–tools used by the federal government to effectuate policy goals related to mass deportation. Other speakers included Lucas Guttentag (Stanford Law School and Yale Law School), Kevin Johnson (UC Davis School of Law), Jason Cade (University of Georgia School of Law) and Nora Phillips (Al Otro Lado).

On December 2, Professor Jennifer Koh spoke on a panel entitled, “The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on Higher Education” during a plenary session of the Higher Education Labor-Management Conference. The conference took place at California State University Long Beach, and was organized by the National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions at Hunter College. Professor Koh’s comments focused on the potential benefits and limitations of sanctuary campuses and trends in immigration enforcement, particularly as they relate to university students.

Immigration Clinic Staff Attorney Sabrina Rivera was a panelist at the Latin American Cinemateca of Los Angeles (LACLA)’s 30th anniversary celebration of Cheech Marin’s directorial debut of Born in East LA, hosted at the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles, on November 10. The panel discussion addressed current immigration policies, mass incarceration and deportation, and how the arts can be used to create social change. Other participants included Mark Torres, co-host of the radio show, Travel Tips from Aztlan; Marissa Montes, Co-Director of Loyola Law School’s
Immigration Justice Clinic; Oscar Torres, co-writer of Innocent Voices, a film about El Salvador’s civil war in the 1980s told through the eyes of an 11-year-old boy; and, Lena Khan, director of The Tiger Hunter, a comedy

JENNIFER KOH DELIVERS COMMENTS ON IMMIGRATION REFORM TO LAGUNA WOODS DEMOCRATIC CLUB
11/08/2017

On November 8, Professor Jennifer Koh was the featured speaker at the Laguna Woods Democratic Club’s monthly meeting. She spoke on “Immigration and the Need for Humane Reform.” loosely based on her father’s experience emigrating from India to the United States in the 1970s. Over 100 LACLA students were in attendance.

HALIM DHANIDINA RECEIVES NAPABA AWARD
11/07/2017

Adjunct Professor Judge Halim Dhanidina received the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association’s Daniel K. Inouye Trailblazer Award. According to NAPABA, “This award recognizes the outstanding achievements, commitment, and leadership of lawyers who have paved the way for the advancement of other Asian Pacific American attorneys. These Trailblazers have demonstrated vision, courage, and tenacity, and made substantial and lasting contributions to the Asian Pacific American legal profession, as well as to the broader Asian Pacific American community.” The award was presented on November 3 to the Honorable Dhanidina, along with four other recipients, at a special ceremony during the 2017 NAPABA Convention in Washington, D.C.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP-8 FINALIST IN WESTERN STATE’S 2018 1L MOOT COURT COMPETITION:

Anahi Contreras, Shelby Kennick, Kristina Fernandez, Brad Johnson, Jeremy McKinnon, Monica Pham, Rafael Sanchez, & Gregory Cuvelier.

Western State Alumni Commissioner Puente-Porras & Judge Michael Libutti, along with Dean Easley, presided over the final rounds.

The Stephen F. Chavez Award for Professionalism was given to Monica Phan, Jeremy McKinnon won Best Theory of the Case, Shelby Kennick won Best Oralist!