



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Orange County's oldest law school



HALL OF FAME GALA - P. 6



BAY AREA MIXER - P. 10

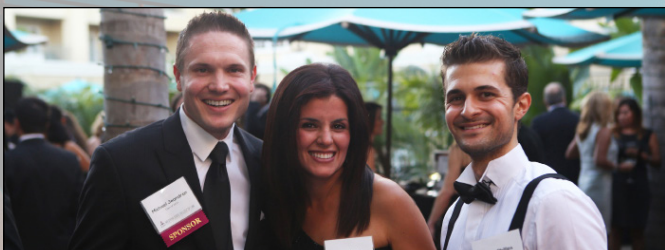


CIVILITY PRESENTATION - P. 12

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Kudos to you!

Please let us know about your accomplishments, in and out of the legal community. Your fellow alumni and classmates want to know.





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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Your Alumni Newsletter
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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

On September 19th, Western State welcomed several hundred guests to the Balboa Bay Resort for the school's Annual Hall of Fame Gala. At the Gala we inducted three individuals into our Hall of Fame who not only achieved --- but who personified the identity and character of those in the Western State community. Judge Becky Dugan, Brian McCormack, and Kimberly Valentine all embodied the humanitarianism and professional skill of great careers. We also recognized the Honorable Francisco Firmat with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his successful efforts to open the courts to the poor and the non-English speaking. Finally, we presented students who had won some of Western State's major scholarships, including the Shapiro and Bentley Scholarships, and gave them the dais to present their wholly fascinating life stories.

The Gala showcased the alumni community's generosity and highlighted the critical bond between donors and tomorrow's legal professionals. The celebration was entirely appropriate to the run-up to the College of Law's relocation to our new campus near the Spectrum at Irvine.

This is an epochal moment in the life of our institution. After months of preparation, and years of planning, we are beginning the process of relocating to a new campus. It is a process not without ennui. Western State has for decades been an anchor institution of the academic consortium in Fullerton. The building at 1111 North State College was where so many in the California legal community found their calling and launched satisfying – often spectacular – careers.

If you attended our recent farewell to our Fullerton venue, you know that in so many ways the institution is less about real estate than it is about people. At our new campus we will be ushering in a new era of achievement. We are grateful for the continued support of our alumni and the kind graces of the professional community.



Allen K. Easley
Dean & Vice Chancellor

Farewell to Fullerton CARNIVAL

Saturday, November 21, 2015, marked the last time Western State students, alumni, faculty and staff would come together at the Fullerton campus for an event. The “Farewell to Fullerton” Carnival Party provided a shared moment to reminisce about Western State’s past and celebrate Western State’s future in Irvine.

Everyone enjoyed the carnival games, and the splashes and screams from the dunk tank could be heard throughout the day. Students even stepped onto the sumo mat for some friendly competition. Hamburgers, hot dogs and nachos accompanied traditional carnival food of cotton candy, popcorn and snow cones. A raffle closed out the night.

Special thanks to those who made this happen: Donna Espinoza (Senior Assistant Dean of Student Affairs), Jon Evans (Director of Facilities), Jim Cheydleur (Senior Assistant Dean of Institutional Advancement), Pam Davidson (Assistant Dean of Career Resources), Tim Mallory (Director of Alumni Relations), RJ Espinoza (Marketing Coordinator), Emma Hurtado (Coordinator), Stacy Hang (AP & Facilities Supervisor), Julie Kohler (Assistant Director of Student Finance), Brenda Ishmael (Assistant Director of Student Finance), Tim Hoang (Admission Data Manager), Tracie Porter, Heath Durbin (Class of 2015, The Student Body Association and Student Organizations.



HALL OF FAME *Gala*





The Balboa Bay Resort was once again the venue for Western State’s seminal alumni event – The Hall of Fame Gala. Nearly three hundred guests gathered at the scenic local on the water in Newport Beach to pay homage to four individuals:

Judge Becky Dugan, Retired Judge Francisco Firmat, Brian McCormack, and Kimberly Valentine. Each achieved success in outsized and often unconventional dimensions: Judge Dugan

as an authority on juvenile law and the longest sitting bench member in Riverside County; Judge Firmat, as one of the State’s most venerated judges; Brian

McCormack, as a skilled practitioner of high-wire, high-stakes litigation; and Kim Valentine who has developed the art of using the litigator’s tools on behalf of the elderly toward results of genuine justice.

One of the go to events in the Orange County legal community. - Bill Shapiro

Also on the program were students whose academic careers were enhanced and in some cases made possible by the generosity of Alums lie William Shapiro and Greg Bentley, themselves Hall of

Fame inductees. In an evening of overdue accolades and past due reconnections, the most important message was the importance of supporting students.





View the photo gallery here: westernstate.cld.bz/2015-Hall-of-Fame-Photo-Gallery

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THIRD ANNUAL BAY AREA MIXER



Western State reached out 500 miles on a crisp Autumn night on November 12th to the alumni of the Bay Area. This was the third time that the school had situated a reception at the Waterfront Restaurant a glass-walled, open beamed, on the water at Pier 7 at the base of the Bay Bridge.

Among the guests were Janely Mendoza (Class of 2015) who, one week later would receive her successful bar results; Gabrielle Selden (1996) of the Judicial Counsel; construction attorney Craig Niven (Class of 1987); IP attorney Owen Bates (Class of 1994), and Law Review EIC Kevin Nguyen (Class of 2015). Afterwards Dean Easley marveled at the warmth and instant bon homme of the Bay Area alums.



LAS VEGAS MIXER



Western State alumni, faculty and staff gathered to celebrate and reconnect at our 1st annual Las Vegas Area Alumni Mixer. The perfect venue, located on the strip across from the Wynn Hotel, Maggiano's Restaurant provided the true feel of old world Italy in the midst of a pervasive "Vegas-baby" party atmosphere. The mixer coincided with the annual Consumer Attorneys of Los Angeles Vegas Conference, which synergy brought together Western State alumni of widely diverse graduation classes from So. Cal. and the greater Nevada region. Notable alumni in attendance included: Jim Randall (Class of 1980), Bill Shapiro (Class of 1978), Alan Davis (Class of 1978) and Christopher Montes de Oca (Class of 2006).

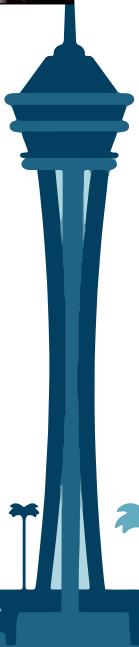
Next year's event promises to be even more not-to-be-missed, bigger and better, and once again coinciding with the CAALA Vegas Conference. Be on the lookout for the announcement of next year's date, time, and location; mark your calendar and plan to begin celebrating our 50th anniversary with your Western State friends, colleagues and classmates – Vegas style!



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Professionalism
ethics
civility

The image features a large, light blue circle on the left side, which serves as a background for the text. To the right of the circle, there are several overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue and purple, including rectangles and a large, stylized letter 'C'. The text is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with the word 'Professionalism' on the top line, 'ethics' on the second line, and 'civility' on the third line. The overall design is modern and abstract.

CIVILITY MATTERS PRESENTATION

Professionalism, Ethics and Civility

Members of the American Board of Trial Advocates, considered to be the elite of America's trial lawyers, spoke to Western State College of Law students on November 17. John P. Blumberg, Class of 1976, and Douglas M. DeGrave addressed the 1Ls from the Legal Writing and Research classes of Professors Eunice Park, Lori Roberts and Monica Todd on the topic, "Civility Matters." The presentation addressed ABOTA's commitment to elevating the standards of integrity, honor, and courtesy in the legal profession and the crisis of embattled civility in the courts.

Mr. Blumberg, who sits on ABOTA's National Board of Directors, the National Board of Governors of the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys, and the Board of Governors of the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles, has tried over 100 cases to decision or verdict. He holds specialty board certifications recognized by the California State Bar as a civil trial lawyer, as a legal malpractice specialist, and as a medical malpractice specialist. Mr. Blumberg's office is located in Long Beach.

Mr. DeGrave also sits on ABOTA's National Board of Directors and served as President of CAL-ABOTA in 2013.

One of approximately 100 lawyers certified as a civil trial specialist in California, Mr. DeGrave has tried more than 80 cases to verdict or judgment, specializing in civil litigation. Mr. DeGrave is a founding partner of Poliquin & DeGrave LLP in Laguna Hills, serves as an arbitrator and mediator, and is a former adjunct professor at Western State College of Law.

Civility Matters was created to promote the first specific purpose in ABOTA's constitution: "To elevate the standards of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession." The program features first-hand lessons learned by and experiences of ABOTA members who have successfully implemented these programs in the past and offered their wisdom during its development. Civility Matters was designed to be presented at all ABOTA educational activities, other bar and professional programs, and, especially, in every law school in the country.



ALUMNI KUDOS

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.



Gregory Bentley (Class of 1990) has been named President of the Riverside/San Bernardino County Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Sally Anne Cox (Class of 2000), of Tustin recently obtained a \$500,000 settlement on behalf of her client, an unarmed disabled man, who was shot by a police officer during a routine traffic stop.



Thomas Dillard (Class of 1977) has been named President of the Orange County Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.



John Blumberg (Class of 1976) moderated two panels at the Consumer Attorneys of Los Angeles CAALA Las Vegas Convention, the “Nation’s Largest Trial Lawyer Convention.” Those were: “Proving Unique Injuries” and “Evidence.” Among the convention’s featured speakers were Greg Bentley on “Effectively Trying Government Tort Claim” and David Hoffman on “Grab Bag: FOIA Requests, 911 Calls, Social Media, etc.”



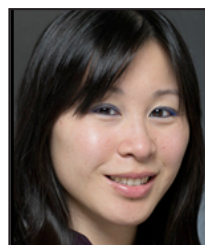
Dolores Leal (Class of 1987) of Allred Maroko Goldberg has been presented with the 2015 Joe Posner Award by the California Employment Lawyers Association.



Hollie Lemkin (Class of 2000), a state certified Irvine family law practitioner, has joined the Costa Mesa firm of Bohm & Wildish as partner.



H. Bryan Card (Class of 1978) recently won a \$1,600,000 jury verdict in Los Angeles Superior Court on behalf of his clients (Barrillas/Nakauchi v State of California) who sustained critical injuries in a motorcycle accident caused by hazardous roadside conditions and negligent signage.



Iris Leong (Class of 2007) was the subject of a feature article in the November 19th issue of the Los Angeles Daily Journal. She is Assistant Vice-President and Legal Counsel of the Tawa chain of supermarkets.



Pamela Liosi (Class of 1994) has joined the Traut Firm where she handles personal injury and a diverse range of related issues, including wrongful death and assault. She served two terms as President of Lex Romana – the

Italian American Bar Association - and is affiliated with a number of bar organizations. She is a skilled writer and has written and lectured extensively on scholarly subjects.



Claudette Kunzman (Class of 1988) has been selected to receive the 2015 Harmon G. Scoville Award. She is an eminent Orange County estate planning/probate attorney and co-chair of OCBA's

Pro Bono Committee. The Scoville Award is one of the OCBA's highest accolades, recognizing a member of the Orange County legal community whose career exemplifies the highest standards of the legal profession and who has significantly contributed to the Orange County Bar Association and championed the constitutional system of justice.



Brian McCormack (Class of 1993) of Callahan & Blaine has been selected for inclusion in the 2016 Edition of Best Lawyers in America (practicing in: Plaintiffs Personal Injury Litigation).



Michael Moran (Class of 1983) recently won a \$1,265,000 jury verdict on behalf of his client, the family of an elderly man who died from negligent feeding while staying at a nursing home.



Riverside County Superior Court Commissioner **Mickie Reed** (Class of 1999) was the subject of a feature article in the August 20th edition of the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*.



Solange Ritchie (Class of 1994) is the author of a recently published thriller, *The Burning Man*.



Retired Orange County Superior Court Commissioner **Thomas Schulte** (Class of 1975), was among the honorees at Voices of Justice fundraiser held recently at the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, benefitting the Legal Aid Society of Orange County. Schulte now coordinates the family, probate, and elder law sections of Legal Aid's innovative LEAP program (Legal Entrepreneurship Assistance Program). He was named Outstanding Community Service Award Co-Recipient at Voices of Justice.



Guillermo Tello (Class of 2011) recently joined the Orange County office of the international firm of Ogletree Deakins where he emphasizes litigation in employment, business, and commercial matters.



Janice Vinci (Class of 1998) was co-counsel on a recent wrongful death case in which she won a result of \$5,700,000 for her client, the family of a young man living in an assisted nursing facility who died owing to the neglect and malfeasance of the facility's staff.



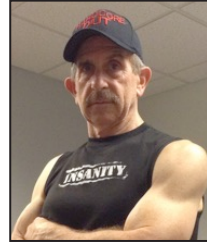
Orange County Superior Court Judge **Nancy Zeltzer** (Class of 1977) was the subject of a feature profile in the August 7th Edition of the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*.

ALUMNI KUDOS

Continued.



Mary Kreber Varipapa (Class of 1996), formerly of the Orange County Public Defender's Office, has been appointed Judge of the Orange County Superior Court by Governor Brown.



William Bartz (Class of 1977) is developing a successful career as a certified personal trainer. This is in addition to his busy AV rated criminal defense practice where he now primarily represents inmates with murder

convictions. He litigates Board of Parole decisions as well as the decisions of the Governor – and to great success. (He just obtained a reversal of a decision by Governor Brown to take away his client's parole date.) Bartz was a police officer before coming to Western State and he credits his expertise in police procedures with his success in challenging searches and suppressing evidence. He estimates that – including his 37 years as a sole practitioner - he has worked in the criminal justice system for 47 years.

He plans on practicing law for at least another 3 years. “I have been certified as a personal trainer and group fitness instructor. I am 67 years old and besides the law, working in the fitness industry has become my passion.”

“I want to let my fellow alumni know that there are other options available to them when they decide they want to quit practicing law. I have really enjoyed the last 37 years in my practice and I can honestly say that every morning I wake up I look forward to going to work. However, it is difficult to serve two masters so in three years I will reluctantly leave the law and pursue my next career.” He notes that when he graduated from Western State, the oldest of his four children was 2 years old; Matthew Bartz is now a criminal defense lawyer in Phoenix.



Eleanor Stegmeier (Class of 1977) of Stegmeier, Gelbart, Schwartz & Benevente and **Michael Fisher** (Class of 1988) of Fisher & Rich have been named to the Southern California Board of the

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.



Three Western State Alums are among the attorneys honored by the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association at its annual Installation event on November 21st at the Balboa Bay Resort. The “Top Gun” honorees are **Anne Andrews** (Class of 1981) for Distinguished Achievement, **Richard Donahoo** for Government Liability (Class of 1996), and **Jerry Gans** (Class of 1983) for Medical Malpractice.



MEMORIAM



The Western State Community was very saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Professor Stephen Chavez (Class of 1998). I know this is shocking news to all of us. I know we have all been touched by Professor Chavez during his time at Western State.

“I know I speak on behalf of all of us at Western State in saying that Professor Chavez was a treasured member of the Western State community and his contributions will be sorely missed.” - Allen K. Easley



Susan Busby Goodwin-Pericich
Class of 1973



Paul Stuart Patterson
Class of 1976



Hans William Vogel
Class of 1976

FACULTY NOTES



On August 4, 2015, **Professor Jennifer Koh** spoke at an Orange County Bar Association, Immigration Law Section meeting on Texas v. United States, the federal litigation pending in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in which 26 states have challenged President Obama's creation of Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA). DAPA would have provided temporary relief from deportation for parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, but has been temporarily enjoined by a federal district court in Texas. Her presentation focused on the legal claims raised in the litigation, as well as the implications of the lawsuit for immigration practitioners and immigrant communities. She was joined by Prof. Annie Lai, Co-Director of the Immigrant Rights Clinic at UC Irvine School of Law.



Professor Eunice Park's article, "Equitable, Gender-Neutral Writing Means More Effective Advocacy," has been published in California Lawyer's August issue. Professor Park is a regular contributor to the magazine's Legal-Ease column



Adjunct **Professor Neil Pedersen** gave two one-hour presentations at this year's State Bar Solo and Small Firm Summit on June 18, 2015, in Newport Beach, California. One presentation was entitled "Time Management for the Busy Attorney," and the other was entitled "The Paperless Law Office: Using Technology to Maximize Efficiency and Profit." The State Bar's California Young Lawyers Association has asked Professor Pedersen to produce two recorded segments on those same topics for its Ten Minute Mentor program, where CYLA members can view ten-minute videos on topics related to the practice of law



The State Bar of California has selected Adjunct **Professor Jonathan Pink** as a 2015 IP Vanguard Award Recipient. The IP Vanguard Awards honor outstanding professionals who are spearheading developments in the world of intellectual property. A partner of Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith, LLP, Professor Pink will be honored with his award, in the private practice category, at the 2015 Intellectual Property Law Section Annual Institute on November 12-13 in Rancho Mirage.



Professor Tracie Porter has been recognized for outstanding service by the National Bar Association.

On July 22, National Bar Association President Pamela J. Meanes presented the “Presidential Award for Education Initiative” to Western State College of Law “for exemplary service to the NBA” at its annual convention, held in Los Angeles at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel last week. Associate Dean of Students Charles Sheppard accepted the award on behalf of Western State. President Meanes recognized Professor Tracie Porter for her role and outstanding service as National Chairperson of the National Bar Association’s 2014-2015 Symposiums and the exemplary manner in which the West Coast segment of the 25th Annual Wiley A. Branton Issues Symposiums was hosted at Western State last October. The award was presented to Western State after the conclusion of a dynamic panel discussion Professor Porter co-moderated with Dean Everett Bellamy, Adjunct Professor of Law of Georgetown University Law Center, Washington D.C.

Professor Tracie R. Porter’s law review article, “The School to Prison Pipeline: The Business of Imprisoning Not Educating Students in Public Schools,” 66 Ark. L. Rev. 55 (2015), is cited by Journalist Kate Schimel in the online publication Education Dive, a publication primarily targeted at school and district administrators and covering social justice issues through schools. Professor Porter is the Director of the Western State College of Law Business Law Center.



Professor Stacey Sobel was featured in an article in the July issue of *Lawyer and Statesman*, an annual publication of the *National Jurist* magazine. In the article, “So you want to be a leader in your industry?”, in which four lawyers with different legal backgrounds were interviewed about their experiences in becoming experts in their fields, Professor Sobel spoke about the importance of networking and volunteering for legal organizations as a young public interest attorney.

Professor Sobel also has been quoted in a recent article regarding transgender employees in the workplace. In “Transgender Employees Seeking Greater Workplace Protections,” at *Mainstreet.com*, she discussed how employers can assist workers who are transitioning on the job by having inclusive workplace non-discrimination policies and a human resources department that is prepared to work with their employees, and urged employers to educate themselves on the law where they are based and conduct business.



Check out the faculty blog: <http://westernstatefacultyblog.wordpress.com>



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Western State College of Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association (321 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60610, (312) 988-5000).

See wsuprograms.info for program duration, tuition, fees, and other costs, median debt, salary data, alumni success, and other important info.

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