

WESTERN STATE

College of Law

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



This past May 19th, Western State College of Law ("Western State") held its commencement ceremony in Anaheim where seventy five graduates received their Juris Doctor degrees. This year we invited families to participate in the conferral of degrees and the hooding of the graduates. I had the privilege of not only congratulating every graduate personally, but also meeting some of the individuals who supported those graduates and made this endeavor happen in the first place. It was gratifying to see the depth of emotion between graduate and loved one during that brief hooding ceremony.

The class of 2011-2012 faces some unique challenges; it will be joining the legal community during an era of economic doubt and uncertainty. I was therefore struck by the pervasive optimism at graduation, and the shared assuredness that the education the graduates had received at Western State would open countless doors in the future. The giddiness in the air was abetted by those who had received their bar results only the night before. Western State's bar results for first-time takers – all of those graduates at commencement from the fall 2011 class – reached an historic high of 92%. Whatever obstacles lie ahead, I am certain the group assembled at the Grove Theater on May 19th, a group to whom I've grown to admire and whose tenure at Western State nearly matches my own, will surmount them; they have the character and the tools to do just that. I congratulate the faculty for providing them those tools, and their families for shaping that character.

My guess is that the scenario I described is not completely unfamiliar to the alumni who may be reading this, and may evoke a frisson of recall even to those who graduated decades ago. I invite you to share your own memories and reconnect with your own classmates at our upcoming *Colleagues in Law* Dinner on September 13th at Celebrations in Costa Mesa. I suspect that heady mixture of uncertainty and optimism of your own class has long since resolved itself into fulfilling careers. Those careers and those achievements will be on display as we introduce our newly inducted Hall of Fame members to the alumni community. It is at events such as this that we remind ourselves what a diverse and influential community we have become; and I hope you will give me the opportunity to meet you that evening.

Western State College of Law
Save the Date Inland Empire Mixer Save the Date

Hosted by
William D. Shapiro,
WSU Class of 1978

July 12th, 2012
at the Inland Empire Office of
RORS

You're Invited

Western State College of Law

INLAND EMPIRE MIXER

Complements of your
generous host: **Bill Shapiro**

Location:

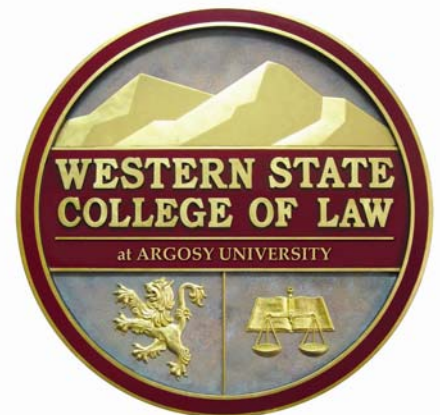
RORS

893 East Brier Dr.
San Bernardino, CA 92408

RSVP to
respinoza@wsulaw.edu
by July 1st

Thursday, **July 12th**
6 - 8:30 p.m.

For more information:
jcheydleur@wsulaw.edu
714.459.1139



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Professor Neil Gotanda

Professor Neil Gotanda's article, 'A Critique of 'Our Constitution is Color-Blind'' (1991), from the Stanford Law Review, has been listed as one of the 100 most-cited law review articles of all time; a recent Michigan Law Review study revealed.

[Click here](#) for the article.



Professor Stephen Chavez

Professor Stephen Chavez (class of 1998) has been named to the editorial board of the California State Bar's "Business Law News." He is the Style Editor for the publication, which is the journal for the Business Law Section of the State Bar, the second largest business law bar section in the United States. He reminds the Western State community that the BLN continually solicits articles from bar members on trends and issues relevant to practitioners.



WESTERN STATE College of Law

JUDGE FIRMAT SWEARS-IN BAR GROUP



Judge Francisco Firmat has said that one of the most gratifying aspects to being a judge is swearing-in new attorneys to the bar. The Orange County civil judge has administered the attorney's oath to hundreds of graduates, many of whom were students in his trial practice class. Providing guidance to new professionals is his calling, and it was only fitting that he should preside over their licensure.

On June 1st, 2012, at the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana, Judge Firmat – himself a Juris Doctor graduate of Western State's Class of 1976 - administered the attorney's oath to eleven successful bar candidates from Western State in the presence of their families and peers. Praising the hard work and dedication that brought the graduates to this moment, he nevertheless cautioned them against becoming caught up in the law's fascination. Drawing upon his own experience and the writings of psychologist Martin Seligman, he implored the new attorneys to lead balanced lives and to be on guard against the work swallowing them up.

Also welcoming the new admittees were State Bar trustee Pearl Mann of the Western State class of 1985 and Associate Dean of Academics, Susan Keller. Dean Keller congratulated the group on achieving the highest bar pass rate in the school's history and setting a spectacular benchmark of 92% for subsequent bar groups to aim for. Pearl Mann urged the group to take ownership and pride in the reputation of their new profession, and commit to giving back to their communities.

The successful February 2012 California Bar candidates are:

Trevor M. Austin	Jang H. Na
Gina G. Cervino	Jeffrey K. Nielsen
Rebecca A. Grose	Ranji H. Perera
Jonathan Fang	Allegra P. Rineer
Evan K. Field	Wendy Salazar
Lemuel L. Garcia	Heather N. Samantello
Elisa Marie Guadan	Brenton A. Schick
Mark T. Harshbarger	Sarah L. Taylor
Sevanna Isanians	Trisha V. Tucker
Amanda L. Johanson	Alisha J. Walker
Michelle Y. Kim	Michael Yoshimura
Megan H. Lencek	Nicholas J. You
Molly S. McMullen	Benita Zakari
Robert M. Mummert	

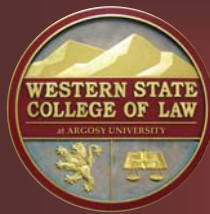
Class NOTES



Christine Allen (Class of 1987) of Judicate West was the subject of an *ADR Profile* featured in the December 16th issue of the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*.



Ebrahim Baytieh (Class 1996) of the Orange County District Attorney's Office has been named Outstanding Prosecutor of the Year by the California District Attorneys Association.



WESTERN STATE College of Law

A MESSAGE FROM VISITING PROFESSOR MICHAEL ROOKE-LEY



Michael Rooke-Ley was a visiting professor at Western State in spring 2012, filling in for Professor Phil Merkel who was on sabbatical. Rooke-Ley is a Past President of the Society of American Law Teachers, the largest organization of law school academicians in the United States. He has taught law students for over thirty years, primarily at the Nova Southeastern, Santa Clara, Seattle, Willamette and elsewhere throughout the country. As a teacher, activist and scholar Professor Rooke-Ley's fields of expertise include constitutional law, civil rights and liberties, and domestic relations. He served on the Gender Fairness Task Force in both Oregon and Florida, and on the board of the ACLU of Oregon.

Professor Rooke-Ley taught and consulted in Croatia and Sri Lanka as a Fulbright Professor of Constitutional Law. In addition, he has lectured and consulted over the years with judges, lawyers and students in Cuba, Germany and Bangladesh, helping with constitutional development, community mediation, women's law associations, immigration matters, press freedom and the development of legal services programs.

He concluded his teaching stint at Western State with a message, excerpted here:

My dear Western State colleagues,

As this semester quickly vanishes, I want to take a moment to thank all of you for your very gracious hospitality during this fleeting one-semester visit. Little did I know what a gem you've created here -- such a dedicated faculty and such a hungry, hard-working student body. I've done my best to fill Phil's shoes, but, then again, he wears size 14 as professors go!

Last Thursday, I concluded my Torts semester by meeting with both sections B and C together. It was a long-winded talk, to be sure, all about our time together and their professional futures. In the midst of it all, I offered the following perspective: guarantee good teaching.

"I want you to know that you are very fortunate to be here at Western State -- more so than you may realize. I have served as national president of the Society of American Law Teachers, I have served on ABA accreditation site teams like the team which visited us earlier this semester (when I thought it was someone's mom dropping in!), and I have taught at eight different law schools. I tell you this only to say that I know what's out there, and now I know what you've got here.

Click here
for complete
Message.



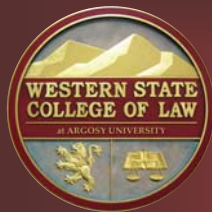


Gina Cervino (Class of 2011) was the 2012 recipient of the Orange County Women Lawyers Bar Stipend Award. She was admitted to the Bar in spring 2012.



Kaye Lindsey (Class of 1989), formerly Vice President of Operations for State Farm Insurance Companies, California Zone, was honored for her professional and public service achievements by the Black Women Lawyers Foundation on May 19th, 2012 at its 37th Annual Law and Beyond Awards Reception.

Retired Judge Raymond P. Van Stockum (Class of 1979) has been appointed to the California Assigned Judges Program (AJP). Judge Van Stockum has over twenty years experience wearing the robes and from 1995—1997 served as the presiding judge of the San Bernardino court. Western State would like to congratulate and recognize his commitment to the field of law.



WESTERN STATE

College of Law

PROFESSOR JENNIFER KOH OFFERS HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INAUGURAL YEAR OF WESTERN STATE'S IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC

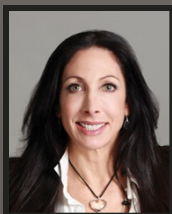


Please join me in congratulating the following students who participated in the inaugural year of the Western State Immigration Clinic (case names and minor details have been changed to preserve client confidentiality):

Michelle Choi and Oscar Lee represented R, a young woman from Mexico who, from the age of 13 on, suffered over 10 years of physical and sexual abuse at the hands of a family member. Michelle and Oscar successfully filed a Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”) self-petition on behalf of R, which required them to conduct multiple interviews of their client through a Spanish interpreter, obtain evidentiary proof of the abuse, interview witnesses (including a witness in a foreign country), conduct detailed legal research into the elements of the case, and write a persuasive letter-brief on behalf of their client. If successful, R will be able to remain in the United States, where she has lived since she was brought here as a young child by her mother, and reach her dream of becoming a nurse and pastor. Update: As a result of Michelle and Oscar’s efforts, R has obtained work authorization.

[Click here
For complete
article.](#)





Nancy Dahan (Class of 1986), of the Irvine firm of Brown & Dahan, has been named one of OC Metro Magazine's "Twenty Women to Watch for 2012" in recognition of her commitment to the welfare of women.



The Honorable Sherrill Ellsworth (Class of 1987), Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Riverside County, has been appointed to the California Judicial Council by Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye.



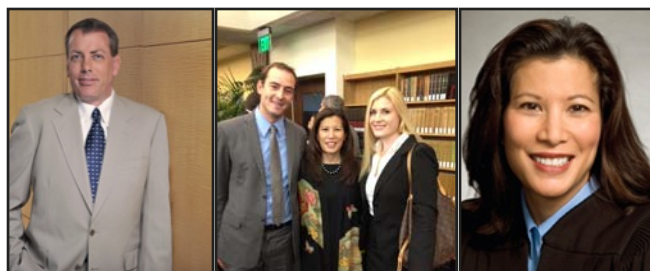
Jeanine Nadel (Class of 1982), County Counsel of Mendocino County, has been named Judge of the Superior Court of Mendocino County by Governor Brown.



WESTERN STATE

College of Law

WESTERN STATE GRAD PROVIDES SUPPORT TO FRIENDS OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY LAW LIBRARY



Established in 1891, with courthouse branches and public library collaborative spaces throughout Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County Law Library is one of the nation's oldest and largest law libraries.

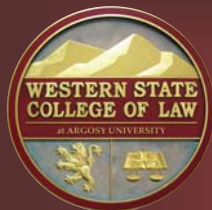
The library is supported primarily by private funding, much of which is raised and managed by Friends of the Los Angeles County Law Library. Andrew Struve (left - Class of 1998) of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips sits on the Friends Board of Directors which sponsored a benefit for the Library on April 3rd honoring Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye with the Beacon of Justice Award. Among the Western State students attendance were Kyle Roybal and Lauren Doyle (center with Justice Cantil-Sakauye).

Western State Professors Co-Present at National Conference



Eunice Park (left) and Lori Roberts (right) co-presented at the 2012 National Legal Writing Institute Conference on "Introducing Students to Free On-line Legal Research Resources & Assessing the Effectiveness of Teaching this Learning Outcome." The skills students need to perform effective legal research face transition in the Information Age. Many highly-regarded free on-line legal research resources exist alongside traditional fee-based

services, and professors need to know how to assess the effectiveness of teaching these to students as well as measuring outcomes of that instruction. The presentation was well-attended by both legal writing professors and law librarians from across the country wishing to enhance their own students' experiences in this largely undeveloped area that, at Western State, already has been successfully implemented.

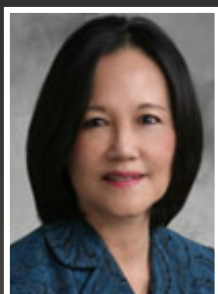


WESTERN STATE

College of Law



Rock Kendall's specialized practice in DMV matters is outlined in an advertisement featured in the 2012 *State of California Senior Guide for Safe Driving*, the only non-governmental advertisement permitted in the *Guide*.



Patricia Lee-Gulley (Class of 1989) has been named President of the Orange County Women Lawyers Association. She was also recently installed at Treasurer of the Orange County Asian American Bar Association.

Recent Graduate Alumni Achievement



Western State Student Wins OCBA International Law Section Award

The OCBA International Law Section is pleased to announce that Ben Ekenes, Class of 2012 at Western State College of Law, has been awarded the recently established Annual Blackstone International Scholars Award. The winning entry, entitled "Law of Nations, not 'International Law': Why the Alien Tort Statute Should Not Grant Jurisdiction," was judged on a number of factors, including relevancy, importance, originality, complexity, and writing quality. Ekenes will attend the International Law Section's meeting on, Sept. 17, 2012, at Kitayama Restaurant in Newport Beach, where he will discuss his essay. "The purpose of the Annual Blackstone Award is to encourage law students to pursue careers in international law and to reward those students who demonstrate an interest in the field and who show outstanding writing skills," says OCBA Section Chair Richard Schwarzstein. "We look forward to offering the Award again next year and welcome qualified submissions." Ben Ekenes received a certificate for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Oral Argument in the Traynor Moot Court Competition which was held on April 14-15, 2012

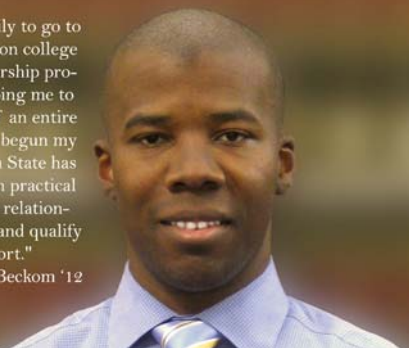


"Without the financial support of Western State many doors would have remained closed to me in my pursuit of becoming an attorney. I feel so lucky to be attending a law school that is invested in my academic success. I will always be grateful for the help I have received and hope that Western State continues to be a place where students are supported in their dreams! "

Tami McLaughlin '12

"As the first person in my family to go to law school and a first generation college graduate, the Diversity scholarship program at Western State is helping me to carry the hopes and dreams of an entire family. Moreover, since I have begun my law school education, Western State has given me opportunities to gain practical legal experience, develop key relationships with legal professionals, and qualify for further financial support."

Christopher Beckom '12



To make a donation
toward Western State



[scholarships click here:](#)



Colleagues in Law

A Celebration of Alumni Achievement



Honor Roll of Donors

The Western State community gratefully acknowledges the following individuals for their recent contributions to student scholarships:

Enrique Arevalo (Class of 1979)

Steven Bergh (Class of 1983) -
In Honor of Jennifer Bergh
(Class of 2014)

Joyce Bloom (Class of 1980)

Karen Casey (Class of 1994)

Karen M. Knab (Board of Trustees)

William D. Shapiro (Class of 1978)

John Englund (Class of 1976)

Manuel Garcia (Class of 1990)

Cynthia Gibson (Class of 1983)

James Harker (Class of 1976)

Arthur Knuckey (Class of 1974)

Pearl Mann (Class of 1985)

Jeffrey McConnell (Class of 1986)

[Click here for complete interview:](#)



Neil Pedersen

Class of 1988

HoF Induction Year: 2010



Of what success are you most proud?

You're talking about legal success? Well, I guess it sounds a little corny: putting together a law firm of people that I highly respect, and genuinely like. Our workplace is all about having balance in life. There are no billable requirements, and yet my people work very hard and do good work, but they go home and spend time with their families on evenings and weekends. I may not get filthy rich with that business model, but then that wasn't my goal when I went to law school.

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

I am very proud to have come from Western State. Having been an O.C. practitioner most of my career, I have viewed it as the most prominent law school because wherever I go I'm running into fellow alums. I've always felt that Western State provided some of the best practical legal education in Southern California. Over the years I've had dozens of Western State law clerks and externs, and they always bring a certain energy, enthusiasm and excitement to the firm. I think they make us better attorneys because we understand that they're watching us to learn how to do it right.



Frank N. Darras

Class of 1986

HoF Induction Year: 2000

[Click here for complete interview:](#)

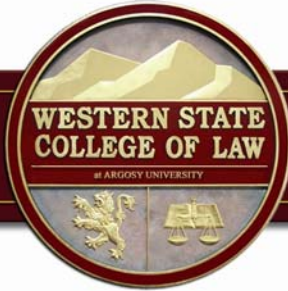


What is your Favorite memory of Western State?

Giving back has been perpetual for me. I was so beyond grateful to get a chance to get a law degree. I remember saying to the admission's director, "If you give me this chance, one day I'll make a difference in the law – and you'll be proud to call me a Western State alum." So I've honored my promise: I've hired Western State students. I saw the need for the Moot Court at Western State and built it. I sit on the Board of Trustees ensuring that the College of Law grows, now and in the future. I haven't forgotten where I came from, Western State.

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

Western State is a rising star. I believe we are maintaining a Bar-pass rate that any top tiered law school would be proud of, and the faculty, staff and the caliber of students makes us a force to be reckoned with in California. It's an exciting time. I think Bill Adams has done an extraordinary job and for those who haven't been back to Western State, they should reconnect. The camaraderie of faculty and students has created a platform that will catapult Western State to new heights. It's our time to shine!



Colleagues in Law

A Celebration of Alumni Achievement



Honor Roll of Donors

William Nees (Class of 1977)

Heidi Romeo (Class of 1994)

Dr. Allan Sheridan (Class of 1989) – In Memory of Bradley Sheridan (Class of 1993)

Larry Thorp (Class of 1984)

Sandra Wager - In Memory of Jay Wager (Class of 1974)

Chris Day (Class of 1985)

Dabney Finch (Class of 1993)

Jim Hayes (Class of 1992)

F. Travis Buchanan (Class of 1997)

Lucy Dunn (Class of 1981)

Jack Golden (Class of 1979)

Michael Fisher (Class of 1988)

Lisa and Bruce Hughes (Class of 1975 & 1993)

Frank Darras (Class of 1986)



Alfredo Amezcua

Class of 1985

HoF Induction Year: 1995

[Click here for complete interview:](#)



What is your first memory of Western State?

I was most impressed by the library. I saw stacks and stacks of books and said, "Wow, do I have to read all these books?" <laughs> I was overwhelmed in that moment by the large, impersonal library.

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

First and foremost I am very proud and have a great deal of affection for this wonderful law school. It provided me a unique opportunity: working full time while attending law school on evenings and weekends. Equally important, Western State has a long tradition and a great legacy. Some of the best, most experienced, more astute members of our legal community have graduated from Western State University.

What does being in the Hall of Fame mean to you?

I was most humbled when I was notified I had been selected. I was filled with pride. The thought that a young Latino man like myself could be viewed as a future role model: and that the next generation can say, "If he can do it, then I can do it too." That is probably the most significant aspect of being in the Hall of Fame. It is a great honor and many students in my community have told me that they recognize me from the Wall of Fame at Western State University.



Jean Hobart

Class of 1977

HoF Induction Year: 1991

[Click here for complete interview:](#)



Of what success are you most proud?

I had a landmark case where I challenged a state statute and it was found unconstitutional. Also, donating half of my legal hours for *pro bono* work. Also being the first woman President of the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association.

What do you like least about the practice of law?

Losing trials. <laughs!>

What does being in the Hall of Fame mean to you?

Everything. It was such an honor – I'm so fortunate – to get in, just to be a lawyer. From a woman raised in an orphanage, you can believe when I say this is important.

What do you see as the most important/pressing issue in the legal system?

Well, this is really political: that judges and justices deserving appointment don't get their nominations debated but are in limbo. However, some who did deserve it got them.

Leadership Pipeline

On Friday, April 13th, 2012, a few hand-picked student leaders representing The Student Organizations at the College of Law were invited to a Leadership Pipeline mixer hosted by Western State alumna, Solange Ritchie, Esq., at her home in Newport Beach. The night was highlighted by connections, referrals, great music, delicious appetizers, and fun.

"I think it was great to see all the students engage with our Orange County Bar Association ("OCBA") and affiliate bar representatives. They certainly are not a shy bunch."

– Solange Ritchie, Class of 1994

"I am so honored that I was able to attend the leadership networking event at Ms. Ritchie's home. I had a wonderful evening being able to chat with attorneys and judges about my future and the law in general. I received some great advice regarding my upcoming job search and had an extended conversation with Mr. Steve Young about trial strategy. That conversation has gotten me very excited about my future as a litigator. It was a great opportunity to meet the leadership within the OCBA and I look forward to cultivating these new relationships as my career progresses."

– Christina Newel

Class of 2012, President- ILSA,
PR Committee Chair- SBA

"It was great to see Western State student leaders rubbing shoulders with and learning from local Orange County leaders. Events like these not only expose students to various types of law and organizations, they allow the legal community the chance to see the high caliber of student that can be found at Western State. I am grateful to Solange and Steve for hosting such a wonderful event."

– David Rubalcava

Class of 2012, President- SBA

[Click here](#) for the full article



Colleagues in Law

A Celebration of Alumni Achievement



[Click here](#)
for complete
interview:



James Otto Heiting

Class of 1975

HoF Induction Year: 2003



Of what success are you most proud?

In my professional life, President of the State Bar. I believe that I am still the only Western State alumnus and lawyer from the Inland Empire to achieve that position. Very few lawyers have been fortunate enough to achieve that position. I have been very blessed.

What do you like most about the practice of law?

Every day is different. I get to help people – usually as the underdog – try to make things right. Attaining justice is an important part of our society, a cornerstone of our existence in America. It's good to be a part of that. I have written about this. It is an easy observation that all the major civil rights actions have come about through individuals with a cause that they and their lawyers believed in and fought for. A lawyer can make a tremendous difference in somebody's life (and in our society and government).



Name: Delilah Knox Rios

Class of 1979

Super Lawyers: 09-10-12

[Click here](#)
for complete
interview:



What do you like most about the practice of law?

When people come to see me in the middle of a conflict which might result in divorce/separation, or children are at risk, or someone has died – people seeking help at the absolutely worst time of their lives – if within six months or so, I can assist them through that transition to the next hopefully best part of their lives, and move on with confidence and enthusiasm, that's what I call an accomplishment. That's a good day. That's what makes the long days and late nights worth it all.

Of what success are you most proud?

A balanced life for the most part. I have two great children (one in college and one in grad-school) and a wonderful husband of 30 years. My life is full of family, career, and friendships. People ask "Do you even *have* a life?" I have great friends I've met through the practice of law – many of whom I first met representing the opposing side of a case! My friends are people with like mind-sets. I started practicing mediation almost 17 years ago and Collaborative Law for almost 10 years. "When I'm peacemaking, I'm at peace." Some consider me a social worker in lawyer's clothes. Family law is a calling and I prefer to litigate as a last resort, to save the peace instead of seek to destroy it. I am passionate about helping people survive and prosper, with dignity and peace, the transitions of their families during their lifespan – from birth of children, divorce or separation, and finally through probate/estates.

You're
Invited

INLAND EMPIRE MIXER

Come Join Us July 12th!

6 – 8:30 p.m.

Hosted Bar and
Hors d'oeuvres.

At the Inland Empire
Office of RCRSD.

Complements of
Your generous host
Bill Shapiro.

RCRSD

893 East Brier Dr., San
Bernardino, CA 92408

RSVP
to
respinoza@wsulaw.edu
by July 4st



Colleagues in Law

A Celebration of Alumni Achievement



Click here
for complete
interview:



Paul Raymond
Class of 1980
Super Lawyers: 09-10-11-12



How has the practice changed since you first started?

You have to react instantly now with technology. E-mail is great, I use it a lot but it has essentially replaced the facsimile as the go-to instant need to know and react. On another level, I'd like to believe that the killer litigation and lack of civility has gone or diminished. The government lawyers that I meet on the tax side are still courteous and ethical – that hasn't changed. Frankly, that's an attraction in the tax-controversy area. I had the opportunity to meet Arthur Manella, the co-founder of Irell & Manella, who was also a friend of the family. I try to live and practice by two things Mr. Manella told me very early on in my law practice: **"Try to meet each hostile remark with being even *more* civil."** The other thing he said to me was "do one thing in law, and do it very well, and you will be recognized by your peers and the public." Its one reason my practice is limited to tax-controversy matters to this day.

What do you like least about the practice of law?

I think there are various times as a lawyer you find especially frustrating. For instance, when I'm told that my client can't do certain things, then you might find yourself beating your head against a wall, or striking a sinister pose as Don Quixote battling those windmills. Over time you learn how to deal with road blocks and hopefully battle through them. If I was to limit this question to one issue, I guess I get frustrated at times with the bureaucracy of the government.

Of what success are you most proud?

Good questions. For starters, *I had no intention of being a lawyer; I wanted to be an F.B.I. agent* when I started my legal education at WSU. To answer your question more directly: Success is relative; it's on two distinct levels, personal and professional. On the professional side, to me the greatest reward is when your peers recognize you. Yes, I'm a Martindale Hubbell, AV rated law firm, the highest accolade you can achieve, and have been so for several years and that really does mean a lot to me.

In 1996, I became the Chair of the Employment Taxes Committee of the Tax Section of the ABA. This opened up a variety of doors, meeting government folks, and seeing how the IRS and legislative process works. On another level, I've had government people reach out to me for legal advice – these are folks who have been my adversaries. It covers Judges, U.S. Attorneys, and other IRS personnel. When these people reach out to me for advice, that's rewarding. Over time you build relationships which hopefully translates into mutual respect.



Colleagues in Law

A Celebration of Alumni Achievement



Join Your Alumni Network Group

Open up the possibilities by networking with your fellow alumni.

Click Here to join:



Donna Bashaw

Class of 1987

HoF Induction Year: 1999

[Click here for complete interview:](#)



What do you like most about the practice of law?

Helping people: bringing family together, and helping solve people's problems. That's really what an attorney is – a problem solver. I like going to court and the camaraderie of probate court where there are so many peers that I know well. I like people. I have a background as a performer and being in court has a performing component. I have a B.A. and M.A. in music and theater arts, and I compete in ballroom dancing, so it's in the blood.

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

Excellent. I mean for a long time Western State was the only game in town. I felt that I got a good education. Both of my associates are Western State alumni. They interned for me. One went to a larger firm and came back. They recently purchased my practice (I'm supposed to be working less now). I'm very high on Western State. I've taught there off and on since I graduated, although it has been a while. The students there are excellent.

[Click here for complete interview:](#)



Frank V. Zerunyan

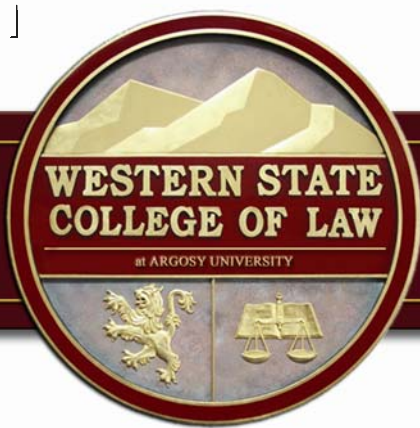
Class of 1985

Super Lawyers 04-05-06



Of what success are you most proud?

Without a doubt, my public service. After serving 4 years on my planning commission, I was elected to my city council seat in Rolling Hills Estates in 2003, re-elected in 2007 and 2011. My first term was the most special as I got to complete and dedicate my term in office to my great grand father – also a public official – and to all public officials who were brutally murdered during the first genocide of the twentieth century. I grew up with the vivid stories about the Armenian Genocide told by my grand mother, a survivor. My ancestors were highly educated for their time and were in public service. I was groomed for leadership by my loving parents who sent me to boarding school in Paris – at age 11 – away from Istanbul where I was born, knowing full well that I had no opportunity there. I am eternally grateful for their vision especially as their only child. I am humbled and honored that I have enjoyed my legal career as well as my public service as Council member and Mayor.



Colleagues in Law

A Celebration of Alumni Achievement



Click here
for complete
interview:



Doug Schroeder

Class of 1988

Super Lawyers: 07-11-12



Current President of the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association

Of what success are you most proud?

Professionally? Certainly personally, parenting my twin 12-year-old daughters. Professionally, the case of *Hiser v. Bell Helicopter*. In that case I got a chance to help a widow in great need. I also was able to make new law to help consumers across the United States and the results contributed to aviation safety in terms of a defective product. I won a published opinion upholding my verdict, and the Supreme Court denied review.

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

As unique. Orange County's first law school, with its holistic admissions policy, has given people who should be lawyers the chance to be lawyers. It's "the best law school you're hesitant to admit you went to." <laughs> That's what it is: underrated. Western has built a community of colleagues. I'm always amused when getting to know another attorney, and eventually the conversation turns to where we went to law school – and once that's out there's this sort of underdog camaraderie. It feels so good when you do well despite being underestimated.

What is your favorite memory of Western State?

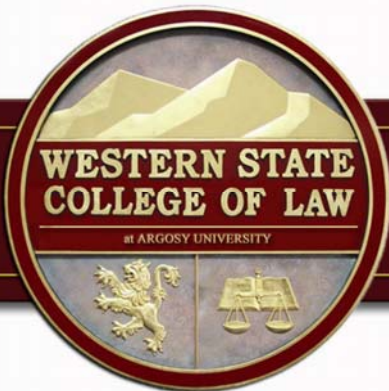
Wow, that is a great question. <long thoughtful pause> that's a darn good question. There are a lot to choose from. The first feeling I remember from Western State is: *I really belong here*—academically, socially...this is where I'm meant to be. The people around me—faculty, students and staff—made those 3 years among the best years of my life.

How has the practice changed since you first started?

For the better in most ways: technology allows us to communicate more effectively and efficiently than ever before. If a picture's worth a thousand words, a video's worth a million, and a PowerPoint somewhere in between <laughs>. The only downside is, with so many lawyers actively practicing, we sometimes lose the sense of congeniality and personal accountability. The Internet has enabled some charlatans to take on cases they shouldn't be handling.

What do you like least about the practice of law?

Deadlines. Especially arbitrary ones. The idea that to be effective as an advocate you have to be a jerk. I find the opposite is true.



Colleagues in Law

A Celebration of Alumni Achievement



Programs such as the Immigration Clinic, Business Law Center, Criminal Law Practice Center, Externships, Law Review and Moot Court develop practical lawyering skills and offer hands-on experience to prepare Western State graduates to make an impact in the legal community.



Over 50 Western State alumni Judges and Commissioners attended Judges' Night-2011 at Celebrations in Costa Mesa.



We are proud of our 11,000+ alumni and a strong presence in the private and public sectors in California and the West.



First year honors students at Western State are eligible for continuing scholarships, judicial clerkships and study abroad stipends.



Western State posted an 83% First-Time Bar Pass Rate in July 2010 and 77% in July 2011 exceeding CA statewide ABA average.

Source: California State Bar



Pictured above: Honoree and Benefactor, William McCune, addressing Western State students, faculty, past Scott McCune Scholarship recipients, and board members of the Orange Country Legal Education Foundation at a ceremony held in the Frank and Marleen Darras Moot Court Room at Western State.

Join your Alumni
Network Group

by clicking here:



PLEASE CONTACT US
ALUMNI@WSULAW.EDU

To make a donation towards Western
State scholarships click here:



or call (714) 459-1139

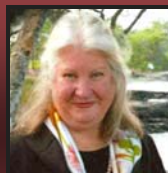
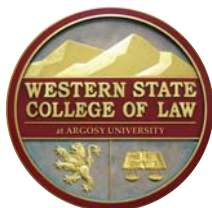
To submit an alumni news item:

alumni@wsulaw.edu



WESTERN STATE

College of Law



IN FOND MEMORY

Karen Casey (Class of 1994)

Western State is dedicated to providing students with the support, guidance, and training necessary to realize their potential. Western State offers both full- and part-time programs and throughout its 45 year history has been committed to the excellence of its teaching and to preparing students for the practice of law.

Western State's student body is diverse and reflects the law school's mission to serve the community. That diversity is also reflected in the dedicated and highly accessible, teaching-oriented faculty, who serve as scholars and mentors both inside and outside of the classroom.

Western State has been affiliated with Argosy University since 2001. In 2012 Western State became a college of Argosy University and is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, California, 94501, <http://www.wascsenior.org>). For more information see wsuprograms.info for program duration, tuition, fees, and other costs, median debt, federal salary data, alumni success, and other important info.

[Alumni](#) | [Giving](#) | [News and Events](#) | [Contact Information](#)

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of *Alumni Highlights*.

Your input is valuable to use, so if you have any comments, ideas, and suggestions, **please let us know.**

1111 North State College Blvd. | Fullerton, CA 92831-3014 | Phone: 714.738.1000

[Site Map](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [News & Events](#)

 **Student Consumer Information**