# WESTERN STATE College of Law ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



# $Message \ From \ The \ Dean$



Western State remains on the forward edge of advancing diversity in the community of law schools. It is written into our mission statement and has shaped all of our policies and institutional endeavors, from recruitment, to admission, to the course of study and employment services. Our graduates have filled leadership roles in countless bar associations, and have been prominent in committees working to increase minority participation in the profession and the justice system as well as advancing access to justice statewide and in communities throughout California.

That is perhaps why the school seems familiar to those revisiting the campus years after graduating. The campus culture has historically been, and still largely is, one of inclusiveness. I was reminded of this when I read an article called *The Most Diverse Law Schools* in the November 2012 issue of *The National Jurist*. *The National Jurist* named Western State to its **"Diversity Honor Roll,"** the top 27 most diverse ABA law schools in the United States based on *Jurist's* evaluation of faculty and student diversity. **Western State ranked 16**<sup>th</sup> out of over two hundred American law schools, and fourth among California's schools.

As the population of California is poised to tilt towards a diverse majority, the representation of minorities in the legal profession continues to lag even as the need for minority practitioners grows. Today's students will be called on to fill that need and they will need skills that only you can teach. Solange Ritchie a graduate from the Class of 1994, who knows something about leadership, has conducted a Leadership Pipeline Program to introduce student leaders to the local bar leadership and establish mentoring frameworks.

There are few things you can do that are of greater value than to make the students of Western State a part of your life: mentoring them as practitioners, inviting them to meetings of your bar association, or attending one of the many functions we hold throughout the year that are created, in part, to bring the alumni and student communities together. Let us know that you want to impact the next generation of legal professionals, and perhaps we can tell you how.



# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

# WESTERN STATE College of Law



Professor Marianne Dellinger has a forthcoming article on environmental issues: "Invited: An Unstoppable Tide: Creating Environmental and Human Rights Law from the Bottom Up," forthcoming in \_ Oregon Review of International Law \_ (2013). She also authored "Score Another One for Energy Companies in Climate Change Lawsuits," a blogpost for the CEB blog – Continuing Education of the State Bar of California/ University of California, November 2, 2012.



**Professor Cheyanne Jaffke** was part of a focus group that commented on the President's State of the Union Address for broadcast on the Fox show, *Hannity*.

## NGUYEN TO SPEAK AT COMMENCEMENT



Judge Jacqueline Hong-Ngoc Nguyen, confirmed last May by a lopsided bipartisan vote of 91-3 to be President Obama's pick for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, will deliver the commencement address at Western State's graduation on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Hers is an iconic story of an immigrant rising from precarious circumstances and achieving great things by dint of hard work and talent.

Judge Nguyen was born in Da Lat Vietnam, and arrived in the US at the age of 10 as a refugee after the fall of South Vietnam. She and her family lived in a tent city in Camp Pendleton before settling in Los Angeles. Her family opened a donut shop in North Hollywood where she worked throughout her grade school, high school and college years. She is a graduate of Occidental College and UCLA School of Law. After graduation, she worked for the firm of Musick, Peeler & Garrett, where she practiced primarily commercial litigation until joining the US Attorney's Office.

She worked in the US Attorney's Office for seven years, rising to the position of Deputy Chief of the General Crimes Section. She was appointed by Governor Grey Davis to the Superior Court of Los Angeles County in 2002. President Obama appointed her to the US District Court for the Central District in 2009, and then to the US Court of Appeals. Her confirmation was unusually swift. "Judge Nguyen is an outstanding jurist with a 10-year track record of success as a trial judge in my state," said Senator Diane Feinstein, "she will make an outstanding addition to the Ninth Circuit."

Nguyen is a former President of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association and was a board member of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles. She was the first Vietnamese-American woman to serve on the Los Angeles County Superior Court; she is the first Asian-American woman to serve as a federal appellate judge; and she is the first Vietnamese-American federal judge.

## SPEAK TO WESTERN STATE STUDENTS ABOUT YOUR CAREER

Would you be interested in coming to campus to speak with current Western State students about your career successes, providing career advice, or offering guidance on using networking to leverage your career opportunities? If so, please contact Pam Davidson to have your name placed on our Special Alumni Presentation list: pdavidson@wsulaw.edu

# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

# WESTERN STATE College of Law



Professor Jennifer Koh will facilitate a panel discussion among a group of private immigration lawyers who are also doing extensive pro bono work on behalf of immigrants. "Doing Well While Doing Good: Social Justice and the Private Immigration Lawyer," will be held on March 26, 2013, from 10:45 am - 12:45 pm at Western State. Koh also has authored an article: "The Whole Better than the Sum: A Case for the Categorical Approach to Determining the Immigration Consequences of Crime," 26 GEO. IMMIGR. L. J. \_\_\_ (2012)



Dean James Hogg, 1929-2013

James Hogg, former Dean of Western State, passed away on January 8, 2013, after suffering a sudden stroke. He was 84. He was the beloved husband of Gail Hogg who survives him and a loving and proud patriarch of his three daughters, Delene Lambert, Leslie Pritchett, and Jennifer Lick, his four sons, Bill Hogg, Alan Hogg, Peter Hogg, and Andy Pugh, and their collective eleven grand-children.

A native of New Zealand, he studied law at the University of New Zealand, where he earned a bachelor's degree, a bachelor of laws degree, and two master of laws degrees. He came to the United States in 1953 on a Rotary Scholarship and continued his studies at Harvard Law School, where he earned a doctor of juridical science degree, the law school's most advanced degree.

He was a true renaissance man. Throughout his long life he enjoyed skiing, woodworking, playing the bagpipes and traveling all over the world. He embraced his family and all of his hobbies, but the central passion in his life was his love of teaching and law. Jim taught at the University of Minnesota law school from 1956-1970. He was also a visiting professor of law at Columbia University, the University of Chicago, and the U.S. Naval War College. In 1971, he went into private practice and became a partner at Oppenheimer Wolff and Donnelly. Later, he became associate general counsel at Control Data. In 1985, he was appointed President and Dean of William Mitchell College of Law, a position he held for 10 years. Later on, he served as Dean of Western State for two eventful years, from 1999-2001.

Dean Hogg will be remembered as an energetic and engaging teacher and scholar, and a wonderful friend, husband, father, and grandfather. His legacy lives on in his progeny and the thousands of students' lives he touched.



Michael F. Moran (Class of 1983) won a \$1,925,000 settlement in the case of Shafiee v. Beacon Healthcare Services Inc. dba Newport Bay Hospital; American Neuro -Psychiatric Network Inc. on behalf of his client who fell in a hospital and did not receive adequate treatment.



Michael W. Jones (Class of 1988), formerly partner at the Roseville firm of Hansen Kohls Jones Sommer and Jacob, has been appointed Judge to the Placer County Superior Court by Governor Brown. Click here for complete interview:

WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW

> <u>Councilmember</u> John Duran Western State Class of 1987 Hall of Fame Induction Year: 2010

Colleagues in Law A Celebration of Alumni Achievement



#### Of what success are you most proud?

Being on the cutting edge of HIV/AIDS law when there was no precedent, no mentors, and no case law. It was trial and error. I was young, in my 20s, and if I hadn't had the foundation of a great legal education from Western State, I couldn't have accomplished what I did. I defended the first medical marijuana case in a criminal setting. I set up the first collective – The Los Angeles Cannabis Resource Center. I represented the first needle exchange program – Clean Needles Now to prevent the spread of HIV. I was one of the attorneys for ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) – a direct action civil protest organization. We shut down the government to protest inaction on the epidemic. First Amendment Law. Equal Protection Law. All within 10 years of graduation from Western State – I never dreamed that would happen.

#### What is the most challenging aspect of city government?

I don't want to bore you with our traffic and parking issues... but seriously, West Hollywood is one of only 8% of cities in the United States in the BLACK. We have \$75M in reserves—to the credit of Council today and those of the past. We play to our strengths: promote tourism, and nightlife, and put the revenue into social service. The challenge is balancing residential impacts with 24 hour city life – like Atlantic City or Las Vegas. You know when you leave Los Angeles and enter West Hollywood because the pot holes disappear.

#### What big city issues does West Hollywood have?

Substance abuse. Back in 2006, I established the W. H. Alcohol & Drug Recovery Center. We got a lot of pushback from residents who were in denial that we have a substance abuse problem in town. Presently, 7,000 people are served each month at the Center. Individuals whose lives have crashed and burned are putting it all back together.

#### What is your Favorite memory of your time at Western State?

Can I talk about being a liberal in a sea of conservatives? I remember being one of a handful of liberals. There was a minority of women in law school as well. My first group of 3 friends - a woman, a Jewish guy and me, a gay Latino. I'm still friends with them today.

It was thrilling to be able to debate these important issues in the forum of law school. I raised the gay issue. There was no "LGBT" back then - it was just G.

Colleagues in Law A Celebration of Alumni Achievement

Click here for complete interview:

Dr. Tony B.E. Ogiamien, Ph.D. Western State Class of 1980 President, American Heritage University of Southern California



Tonybestman Ogiamien graduated from Western State in 1980. Prior to law school, he had worked as a professional singer, guitarist, and police officer. His career since graduating has diverged from those of many of his classmates and has spanned several continents and extensive additional academic training. He did his post graduate work at the University of Essex, and is licensed as a Barrister, Solicitor and Advocate in the United Kingdom. Although he was a successful practitioner, he was always more drawn to the theory of law as well as the challenges of educating future professionals. He became an academic lawyer, developing a particular interest and expertise in law and bioethics of modern reproductive technologies. He has taught at law schools in the United States and Benin, and, partly inspired by his friendships with the founders of Western State, decided to create his own institution of higher learning.

Dr. Ogiamien founded American Heritage University of Southern California in 2003, and moved it to its current campus in San Bernardino in 2005. He guided AHUSC through several successful accreditations, approvals and licenses, most recently attaining its 501(c)(3) non-profit status. He has also assembled a dedicated staff and faculty, among whom are some Western State graduates. He feels he has truly created something that will endure "on education for posterity."

American Heritage uses innovative approaches to deliver blended live and on-line courses leading to degrees in Law, Business, Computer Information Systems, and General Studies. "Our mission is to provide higher education to a culturally diverse community of careerminded adult learners utilizing our comprehensive approach to higher education. "

#### What is your favorite recollection of your time at Western State?

The daily intrigues, the opportunity to see law in action. I was there both as a student and a support staff in the office. I worked with Tim Mallory who was so accommodating. As a Black man and one of the few at Western State at the time, I found him so delightful. I even helped white-wash the building—literally. I really put in my time at that school.

#### Most proud success at the College of Law?

LAW

It gave me the foundation for all that I've achieved since and I am so proud of it. We studied our brains out. It was required, it was demanded. Otherwise you would not get to the next class. Nobody wanted to end his/her study of law that way. It was seen as a challenge and we approached it that way. It wasn't a place to play games, you must study, and we did.

As Western State Alum, It means I represent the institution where I received my legal education. I represent their value and ethics. I represent their hard-nose approach to legal studies and the benefits it brings to you. I've done quite a few things to bring alumni together. I think I have succeeded to a point, and I also feel very confident that the Network can do more to get the graduates back together as a unit. We must find others who have distinguished themselves and those who have done greater things behind the scenes. We need to meet from time to time for things like the Colleagues in Law Dinner and Western State Judges' Night. These are remarkable avenues we can use to give back to the school and to the community.

#### Most value about the practice of law?

I did practice for a short time, but I'm more of an academic lawyer. I liked the theory and practice of law. Black letter law is different from practice. I did my post-graduate studies in England. I am a Barrister, Solicitor and Advocate. Since I left the United States, I've been in the classroom. You know there are several other Western State graduates who went on to found and own law schools: there is one in Newport or Huntington Beach, Evan Burke in Irvine, and one up in the Pacific Northwest, and another one in Sacramento. Law is not just about law-practice. It gives you the training to do anything. I chose academics because of the inspiration I received at Western State.



**Tim Ward (**Class of 1998) was appointed by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors to the position of District Attorney on Dec. 15, 2012. He joined the department in 1999, and has previously supervised the Juvenile Division, the Porterville Division, and the Operations Division. He was promoted to Assistant District Attorney in 2011, less than a year before being named District Attorney.



Frank Zerunyan (Class of 1985) has been named Mayor of Rolling Hills Estates. He was recently profiled in the *Palos Verdes Peninsula News* and recounted his efforts to honor the victims of the Armenian Genocide which included his grandparents.



Click here for complete inter-

WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW

> Mark Smith Western State Class of 1987



Corp. Counsel for Union Oil of CA., '91 – 2000 Executive Management since 2000.

Hall of Fame Induction Year: 2010

#### What is your Favorite memory of your time at Western State?

It was the friends I met along the way. We had a strong study group of seven or eight people. For the first ten years after law school, we stayed in touch. Those were trying times; especially for those of us who were attending part time, while working full time. You spend a lot of time with your study group. Although the support you provide to each other along the law school journey is critical, I still think sitting down and discussing the law is the best way to learn it.

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

Well, it gives me a lot of pride. The level of education you get at Western State is top notch. The fact that the school continues to recognize its alumni is an important way to keep us all connected. It's good to take time to remember what made it possible to get where you've gotten in life. It is crystal clear to me that my law degree was integral to my having the opportunities I had along the way.

#### How has the practice changed since you first started?

The largest changes I see are those caused by the high-tech/software industry. There is so little that we do that doesn't include the "search function." The "search function" as it is used in litigation makes it so we are no longer 100% dependent on memory. Obviously, there are positives and negatives as a result of these changes. Positively, it probably makes more people better at litigation other than those with great short term memories. Negatively, it seems that we spend a lot of time challenging the veracity of witnesses as opposed to trying the real issues of a case.

### Nominations Accepted for the Hall of Fame

Western State is accepting nominations from the alumni community for inductees to the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is the school's most prestigious honor and its members comprise the elite of the bench and bar. If you would like to submit a candidate for consideration, send the candidate's name along with your reason for submission, by February 25, 2013, to alumni@wsulaw.edu. Hall of Fame candidates must have graduated prior to 2003 and have achieved enduring professional or humanitarian distinction. Inductees are chosen by an awards committee and invested at commencement: a very limited number of inductees are selected each year from the many candidates submitted.



Dane Besneatte (Class of 1979) has been named Vice-Mayor of the city of Dixon, California, where he has served at City Councilperson for four years. He is a delegate to the Association of Bay Area Governments and Chairman of the Vaca-Dixon Greenbelt Authority.



John P. Blumberg (Class of 1976) of the Blumberg Law Offices in Long Beach recently won a settlement of \$one million on behalf of his client, who became permanently disabled when a pain management device was negligently implanted into her spine.

# WESTERN STATE College of Law

## Do you Know Someone Considering Law School?

Dear Alumni,

You probably have employees, friends or family members who are considering law school. They will ask your advice about whether to pursue legal studies and where to apply. We hope that if you encourage them to go to law school you will also recommend they apply to attend your alma mater.

You have read about how well Western State is doing – full ABA accreditation, high bar passage rates, great faculty and programs; our students get a lot of support to acquire skills, build their professional resume, and, thanks to our engaged alumni, make contacts that will help them emerge prepared and competitive for today's challenging legal market.

These days a majority of our students attend full time for 3 years, but we remain equally committed to the four year part time evening program from which many of you graduated, allowing you to continue working while in law school. Students can start either the full time or part time program in August or January, but it will take at least a few months to take the LSAT and get their application file completed. They need to plan now to start law school in spring or fall 2014.

Referring and recommending a promising law student is one of the best contributions you can make to Western State. Please encourage qualified prospective students to contact our Admission Office for details or to attend an information session in March. We value your referral as much as they do.

Many thanks, Gloria Switzer, Assistant Dean for Admissions





Career Services' new Professional Etiquette series invited various speakers to Western State's campus over the past two months to showcase best practices in how to put your best (legal) foot forward. We wanted to share some highlights of this successful series with you and extend an open invitation to join us for upcoming events throughout the year.

### Wines with Don

A glorious slice of Napa Valley arrived on the campus of Western State when Professor Don Daucher and his wife, Lynn, shared some of their extensive wine



collection with over forty students, alumni, faculty and staff members. The evening was the second annual Wines with Don event and provided students with an opportunity to network while learning more about the basics of wine appreciation. For the event, Room 405 was transformed into an eclectic wine cellar featuring samplings of the Dauchers' own wine selections complemented with tantalizing arrangements of fine cheeses, crackers and fruits. The Dauchers shared stories of their adventures traveling to various wineries across several continents while establishing lifelong friendships with winemakers from Napa Valley to Latin America and Australia. Don's presentation covered narratives on many topics, from a clip of the 1994 movie, Disclosure, in which a critical game-changing reference is made to a hard-to-obtain bottle of wine, to personal stories of his and Lynn's favorite wineries. We offer a sincere thank you to the Dauchers for such a memorable evening.

For alumni who would like to be join in on future events, please e-mail pdavidson@wsulaw.edu

## Paul Grossman, Esq. Gives Advice



Western State gave a warm welcome to Paul Grossman, Esq. during his recent visit to campus on February 7. Addressing a standing-room-only crowd, Mr. Grossman provided sage advice and insight to students, faculty and alumni, sharing insights from his nearly fifty years in legal practice. Mr. Grossman is currently a partner in the em-

ployment law practice of Paul Hastings and considered to be the world's leading labor and employment expert. He is also the co-author of *Employment Discrimination Law*, the official treatise of the American Bar Association on employment law matters. We extend a sincere thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Grossman and also to Don Daucher for arranging such a memorable evening for all!

#### Alumnus Armond Jackson



Students had the opportunity to learn firsthand about a new associate's entry-level year from alumnus Armond Jackson (Class of 2011) during his recent speaking engagement on campus. Mr. Jackson shared his experience in law school including not only his formulas for aca-

demic success while at Western State, but also in identifying and landing an associate attorney position following graduation. Mr. Jackson is currently an associate with Barth Calderon focusing on estate planning, asset protection, trust administration and business law. We appreciate his taking time out of his hectic schedule to share his inspiring real-life stories with current Western State students. Thank you, Armond!

### Personal Branding and Social Media



Marketing and social media expert Shanna Bright gave back-to-back presentations on creating and managing your personal brand. The idea of how and why to develop a "brand" sparked a lively discussion among the group of over sixty students and faculty, covering topics from how to graciously "unfriend" someone on Facebook to finding ways to implement reputation repair for on-line profiles that still have those old photos from Las Vegas. Citing resources that contend that 2013 is the year when the resume is replaced by your personal brand, Shanna provided practical advice on how to utilize social media platforms such as LinkedIn to enhance your professional reputation and develop career opportunities. The take-away: One's reputation is an individual's most valuable asset and worth managing and protecting, both on-line and in the real world.

# WESTERN STATE College of Law



Mitch Jackson (Class of 1985) has been selected to receive California Lawyer's 2013 Attorney of the Year Award – the prestigious CLAY Award – for Litigation.

The Honorable Daniel McNerney (Class of 1985) of the Orange County Superior Court was the subject of a featured profile in The January 14th edition of the Los Angeles Daily Journal.

# Upcoming Events:



#### Institute for Global Law and Policy Paul Hoffman discusses Kiobel and the role of international law in the United States courts

MCLE

MCLE

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Click Here to RSVP

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When: February 19th Where: Western State College of Law Time: 4 - 5 PM Cost: Free



#### South Orange County Alumni Network Mixer

When: March 14th Where: The Emerald Lounge Time: 7 - 9 PM Cost: Free

Limited space available, so RSVP.

Contact jcheydleur@wsulaw.edu for sponsorship opportunities.

The Honorable Colin Bilash (Class of 1980), Judge at the San Bernardino County Superior Court in Rancho Cucamonga, was the subject of a featured profile in the February 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Los Angeles Daily Journal



#### Medical Marijuana Symposium

When: March 23rd Where: Western State College of Law Time: Half-day Event Cost: General \$25, with MCLE \$100

To purchase tickets, click here:

Contact jcheydleur@wsulaw.edu for sponsorship opportunities.

Institute for Global Law and Policy Western State College of Law Inaugural Presentation

Professor Paul Hoffman discusses Kiobel and the Role of International Law in United States Courts

# 2.19.2013 **Room 110 4 to 5 pm** Reception to follow (Room 101)



RSVP by Feb. 15, 2013 to Christy Alvarez calvarez@wsulaw.edu (714) 459-1168

MCLE CREDIT: Western State College of Law is a certified MCLE provider. This activity qualifies for 1.0 hour of credit under the category "General." Provider #14749

# Western State MEDICAL MARIJUANA

# Law Review SYMPOSIUM



# SATURDAY MARCH 23, 2013

**5 MCLE credits** 1 in Substance Abuse



## RSVP

wsulawreview.org wsummj@gmail.com 714.459.1172

> REGISTRATION FEE \$25 | General \$100 | With MCLE





Criminal Law Panel Allison Margolin Chris Glew Leonard Matsuk

### **Civil Enforcement Panel**

Donna Bader Judge Steven K. Lubell (Ret.) Asha Greenberg

## **Business Law Panel**

Aaron Lachant Henry Levy Robert Raich



Western State College of Law 1111 North State College Blvd. Fullerton, CA 92831



#### PLEASE CONTACT US ALUMNI@WSULAW.EDU

To make a charitable donation toward Western State scholarships click here:



#### or call (714) 459-1139

Western State administers student scholarships through the Education Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation established to receive donations on behalf of the school and disburse those gifts as scholarships to worthy students at the College of Law

#### To submit an alumni news item:

alumni@wsulaw.edu





# WESTERN STATE College of Law

#### **IN FOND MEMORY**

**The Honorable Edgar Acuna** (Class of 1976), former Judge for the Pima County (Arizona) Superior Court, passed away on October 30, 2012.

**Reed Burton Ringstrom** (Class of 1973), a veteran of World War II, passed away on April 28, 2012.

Dianne Lynn Stanton (Class of 1985), of Yucaipa, passed away on December 29, 2012.

General disclaimer: Western State College of Law at Argosy University, (<u>www.wsulaw.edu</u>) was founded in 1966 and is the oldest law school in Orange County with more than 11,000 alumni. Programs, credential levels, technology and scheduling options vary by campus, and employment opportunities are not guaranteed. Financial aid is available to those who qualify. Administrative office: 1111 North State College Blvd., Fullerton, CA 92831-3014 ©2012 Western State College of Law.

Western State College of Law at Argosy University is a campus of Argosy University.

Argosy University 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, <u>http://www.wascsenior.org</u>).

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

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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.

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