

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



On Thursday, September 13th, I had the great pleasure of attending, *Colleagues in Law*, our annual alumni gala. More than two hundred guests turned up to renew their bonds as Western State graduates and as practitioners of a profession that was itself honored that evening. The title of the event was deceptively prosaic for what turned out to be a generous fete of common experiences spanning decades in the life of the institution and generations in the lives of the celebrants.

I once feared depleting our candidates for our Hall of Fame, and since then, every event I've attended and the more alumni I've met have utterly disabused me of that notion. We recognized three graduates whom we had recently inducted into the Hall of Fame, Yoshiaki Kubota, Jude Michael Libutti, and Andrew Struve, any one of whom would be gratefully claimed by any law school dean in the country. Yoshi Kubota has committed his life to the protection of the rights of injury victims; Judge Libutti has worked to ensure access to justice; Andrew Struve conducts highly complex, high stakes litigation for one of the nation's premier law firms. These extraordinary careers were the products of extraordinary character – and in some small but not insignificant way – the felicitous influence of the faculty and student peers at Western State.

It is a noble endeavor to ease the way for the future Kubotas and the future Libuttis and the future Struves toward creating the extraordinary legal careers of tomorrow. It is in part my role – and it is a role that I consider among most worthy – to remind those with the Western State community of the cost of that endeavor.

The event in Costa Mesa that was billed as a “celebration of alumni achievement,” and it was that. But it might have been just as accurately described at a “celebration of alumni generosity.” Thousands of dollars were donated that evening, and many thousands more were generated through a silent auction and a naming opportunity drive. For the coming year, rooms and offices all over campus will bear the imprimatur of those who answered on September 13th when the needs of our students called.

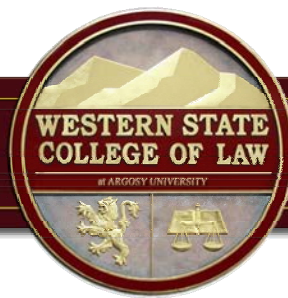
I have some additional news. We have just completed the sale of the Western State campus buildings to California State University, Fullerton. The sale does not affect the operation and governance of Western State which will continue to occupy the present location for up to three years while we make arrangements to secure a new campus. The current buildings are aging and their design elements and layout, which have for years served us so well, now limit the kinds of programs we can conduct. We view the sale as an opportunity to address some long standing obstacles that our site has presented to doing the kinds of things we need to do as a twenty-first century law school. I will, of course, apprise you of significant developments in this process as they arise.



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



David Groshoff — The University of California, Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco has invited Professor Groshoff as a discussant and presenter at its Business Law Symposium in October regarding new social benefit corporation legislation that is appearing across the country. Professor Groshoff's corresponding article will appear in the spring edition of the Hastings Business Law Journal. This symposium invitation comes on the heels of Professor Groshoff's paradigm-shifting article set to appear in the forthcoming Journal of Business & Securities Law (Michigan State University), in which he suggested that the solution to the junk corporate governance that caused bonds to outperform stocks for the past 15 years is through embracing the junkholder primacy of bondholders. Professor Groshoff was recently promoted to Associate Professor of Law and remains the Director of Western State's Business Law Center.



Colleagues in Law

A Celebration of Alumni Achievement



A Message to Alumni From Gloria Switzer, Dean of Admissions



Dear Alumni:

As the Admission team and I reach out to recruit prospective law students in our region and out of state, we have a strong story to tell about Western State. We claim the contributions to the legal community of some 11,000 alumni over five decades; the bar pass and placement success of our recent graduates; the engagement of our dynamic, diverse student body in public service, Law Review, Moot Court, clinics and externships, and other legal organizations.

One of the most important ways alumni can support Western State and our legal education mission is by your active recommendations to talented people you know who are considering law school. Your influence with members of your family, employees and co-workers in law practice, mentees and friends will encourage and guide the next generation of promising law students to our law school.

We in the Admission Office welcome and appreciate your referrals of qualified applicants — some 20% of our new students tell us they applied here because of the direct influence of a Western State alumnus or alumna. Among those admitted, many more will value your recommendation in deciding where to attend.

Along with outstanding teaching, personal attention and academic support, we offer students more program options than ever — full and part-time, day and evening programs which begin in January or August; an accelerated full time track to the JD in 2 ½ years. Special programs include our new Immigration Clinic, well-respected Business Law and Criminal Law certificate programs, strong externship program, many active student organizations to link to the professional community. If you or your mentees have questions about all Western State offers these days, please call or email us.

Do you know someone who is thinking about law school? Please have them contact our friendly Admission Department for personal assistance at (714) 459-1101. Our Admission Advisors will be glad to discuss requirements and the admission process, offer advice on preparing for application and law school, or arrange a visit to campus.

I would love to hear from you. If you have questions or suggestions regarding any aspect of Admissions or outreach to prospective students, call me at (714) 459-1107 or email me at gswitzer@wsulaw.edu.

Thank you for your generous continued support of Western State.

Very truly yours,
Gloria Switzer



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Jennifer Koh — On Sept. 20, 2012, Professor Koh moderated a debate on immigrants' rights as part of the Federal Bar Association's annual convention in San Diego, CA. The debate featured Tom Saenz of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) and Professor John Eastman of Chapman Law School. <http://www.fedbar.org/sandiegoconvention>

On Sept. 27, 2012, Professor Koh was an invited speaker at the Southwestern Law School's faculty visiting speaker series, where she presented on *Waiving Due Process (Goodbye): Stipulated Orders of Removal and the Crisis in Immigration Adjudication*, which is scheduled to be published in the North Carolina Law Review in early 2013. http://www.swlaw.edu/academics/speakers/visiting_speaker_series

On October 5-6, 2012, Professor Koh presented at the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) Teaching Conference in Baltimore, MD, on "Access to Justice Through Community Collaboration and Clinic Design." She developed the presentation with co-panelists Jessica Steinberg (George Washington Law School) and Alicia Plerhoples (Georgetown Law School).



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Click here
for complete
interview:



Michelle Reinglass

Hall of Fame Induction Year: 1993
Western State Class of 1978



What do you like least about the practice of law?

Discovery, and negativity from other lawyers. While in deposition I sometimes needed to go into my "quiet little white 'Zen' zone" in an effort not to respond in kind to ranting and raving adversaries. We are all working equally hard, but many lawyers take their cases too personally. We are running the risk of losing the relationship side of things. So I am always encouraging meeting with opposing counsel over coffee etc. in order to listen and understand the other side better. When I first went into practice, lawyers would meet at Reuben's in Santa Ana, where they would visit and shake hands, and care what was going on with the other side. The lawyers, law schools and Bar Associations have the power to help reverse the trend of "dehumanization of legal practice."

Click here
for complete
interview:



Honorable Richard Fields

Hall of Fame Induction Year: 1997
Western State Class of 1983



What do you like best about being a judge?

I love researching a complicated issue, reading briefs, considering all the sides, reducing it to writing and preparing a decision. Being well prepared allows me to say, "I've read your papers and am inclined to do this." And to the side likely to lose, I ask, "Do you wish to be heard?" The lawyers seem to truly appreciate that I've read the papers carefully and set forth my tentative position. It allows them to know what they need to respond to. I love to hear the lawyers say, "it is apparent the court has read the papers..." And then we hear the argument. It's a lot of fun; it's my favorite part.



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



On September 6-7, 2012, Professors **Jennifer Koh and Elizabeth Jones** participated in the 4th annual Southwest Criminal Law Conference, held at the University of Las Vegas Boyd School of Law, where they presented on their current scholarship.

ALUMNI KUDOS



Scott Dickinson (Class of 1985) of ADR Services in Irvine was selected by the Los Angeles Daily Journal as one of California's Top Neutrals.



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Click here
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interview:



Gary Chambers

Hall of Fame Induction Year: 1994
Western State Class of 1978



How has the practice changed since you first started?

Unfortunately, victim's rights – personal injury, products liability, medical malpractice and other theories for recompense are under constant attack at all levels, especially at the legislative level. There is an economic cost to preserving the jury trial system and protecting victim/consumer rights in our courts. Increasingly our legislature appears willing to trade rights for cost savings. Consequently, the system has pushed smaller cases out and the virtue of compassion is at an all time low. It starts in the government and trickles down to the court system. There is a movement in Chicago toward a two juror system, constitutional but clearly unacceptable. The judiciary (an independent branch of the government) has even been called the "Judicial Department" by then Governor Schwarzenegger. Everything for the most part has boiled down to profit and loss and our judicial system is paying a horrendous price that might truly be irreversible. *. Justice is too important to micromanage it economically.*

What is your first memory of Western State?

When I graduated from college my life goal was to be the next "Mr. Pipeline." I missed my admission interview because we had a good south swell going. Later I went with my best friend to *his* interview. The dean had extra time and interviewed me as well. I figured that I'd be a hero at home with my family, whose opinion of me was always important, for just *attending* for a year. So I went, got through my freshman year by the seat of my pants, straight C's I believe, but then during the second year my competitive nature took over. Same with bar, by the time I arrived there, I didn't want to be the "guy who didn't pass" so I worked pretty hard.

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

When I am asked my "proudest moments" I immediately think of four accomplishments in my career. Being inducted into the Western State University Hall of Fame, being president of the local chapter of ABOTA in 2004, being president of OCTLA in 1990 and being named Personal Injury Trial Lawyer of the Year in 2001. The Hall of Fame is the greatest though. I went back to my son's orientation and walked along looking at the other names on the wall and two-thirds of them are people I have interacted with over the years and truly admire in the profession. To be included on the same wall with those people is truly an awesome compliment. One last thought, I was inducted shortly before my parents died, and to have them in attendance to share that with me is truly one of my most cherished memories.



ALUMNI KUDOS



Michelle Reinglass (Class of 1978)

of Judicate West was named one of California's Top Neutrals in a special edition of the Los Angeles Daily Journal.



Danielle Augustin (Class of 1998)

was interviewed for the article *Special Needs, Hard Times*, an examination of special needs education in an era of dwindling resources in the September 2012 issue of California Lawyer. Augustin's firm, Augustin Egelsee in Anaheim, is a pioneer in representing families of special needs students since 2005.



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Click here
for complete
interview:



Kimberly Valentine

Western State Class of 1997

What is your first memory of Western State?

My first memory is sitting in with Professor Merkel's Torts class, thinking, "Wow, I'm really in Law School!"

What is your favorite?

I Amjured Criminal-Procedure while I was nine months pregnant. On that same note: I remember eating carrots in class and Professor Koppel saying, "There will be no eating in my class." I said, "Well, I'm pregnant, so it's either eating or vomiting..." Professor Koppel said, "Ok, we'll go with the carrots."

Of what success are you most proud?

I take great pride in my profession and the fact that I have positioned myself to righteously advocate for vulnerable people. I help people who couldn't help themselves. And inevitably, in some manner, those same people end up helping or teaching me.

What do you like best about the practice of law?

That's the same answer! <laughs> I love that I get to actually play an active role in the pursuit of true justice. I will not represent a client unless I know (believe) their case is just.

How has the practice changed since you first started?

Women are more respected.

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

It offers a unique subset of people who might not otherwise get to go to law school a life-changing opportunity. Your everyday, typical kid gets to pick schools they want to apply to and then pick from those who have accepted them. Most people who go to Western State are people like me. When I was taking the LSAT, I knew I was only applying to Western State. If I didn't go there, I wasn't going to law school. That was a really big deal for my world. But, as it worked out, I was afforded an amazing opportunity to change many people's lives. And I continue to strive to do just that.

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

The obvious answer is the court budget crisis, because I feel it is impacting the decisions that our judges are making in our cases. Judges don't have enough time. There have been so many cuts the judges are mad. They do the best they can, but have to do things like – give you 20 minutes to pick a jury. This is somebody's real life! I have cases that could potentially change someone's life. Additionally, my cases are discovery and law and motion intensive. I often end up spending \$50K for discovery referees because the courts cannot handle the load. The defense knows it will be expensive, so it just furthers their resistance of disclosure of information in hopes I will go away.

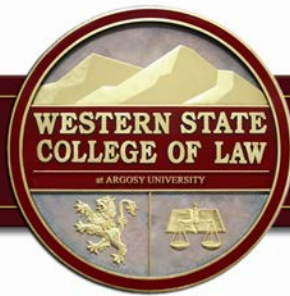


ALUMNI KUDOS



William Shapiro (Class of 1978) of Robinson Calcagnie Robinson Shapiro Davis was interviewed for the November 2012 issue of *Inland Empire Magazine*, in which he made a case for untethering the jury system and restoring its Constitutional powers; and went on to suggest a looming danger of the judiciary becoming too susceptible to political influence.

Jennifer Durenberger (Class of 2010) has been hired by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission as the board's Director of Racing. Durenberger has been a regulatory veterinarian for the New York Racing Association at Aqueduct, Belmont and Saratoga racetracks. She also worked as a regulator for California's racing board at Hollywood Park, Santa Anita and Fairplex. She's also been a regulator for several high-stakes races, including the Breeder's Cup.



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[Click here for complete interview:](#)



Pearl G. Mann

Hall of Fame Induction Year: 2000
Western State Class of 1985



Of what success are you most proud?

Once I saved the life of a 90-year-old woman who had been abused by her caregiver daughter. She was admitted to the hospital with bruises on her back and extremities. Through the Public Law Center, I represented another daughter in obtaining a conservatorship which was hotly contested. We had our petition granted, and the lady improved with proper care and attention. I expended over two hundred hours and received an award from the State Bar for "Outstanding Service to the Poor" for my work on this case. Being honored is lovely, but the tremendous sense of satisfaction for helping that poor woman would have been adequate reward.

[Click here for complete interview:](#)



Ebrahim Baytieh

Western State Class of 1996
-2012 California's Outstanding Prosecutor of the Year



What are the characteristics that you possess that help you bond with a jury?

I think I make a very good neighbor. If I were your neighbor, you would like me as your neighbor. I speak to the jurors as if I was speaking to my neighbors without sugar-coating anything. I see this with many trial lawyers. Our jurors are really smart, and they see through evasiveness and dancing around the facts. Jurors just don't like being talked down to. I think our jurors hate it when a lawyer talks to them in a condescending way. There's a fine line between being confident and being arrogant; on one side of the line jurors will trust you, listen carefully to you, and give your position proper consideration, and on the other side of the line they will dislike you, distrust you, and not pay much attention to your position.



Colleagues in Law

– September 13th 2012 –
at Celebrations in Costa Mesa, California.



Colleagues in Law – an unforgettable evening of alumni connections and alumni generosity – benefitting students now and students to come.



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You*



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IN FOND MEMORY

Douglas LeCrone (Class of 1994)

Steven Alan Erger (Class of 1975)

Delvin Munshower (Class of 1982)

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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).

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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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