

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES



WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW

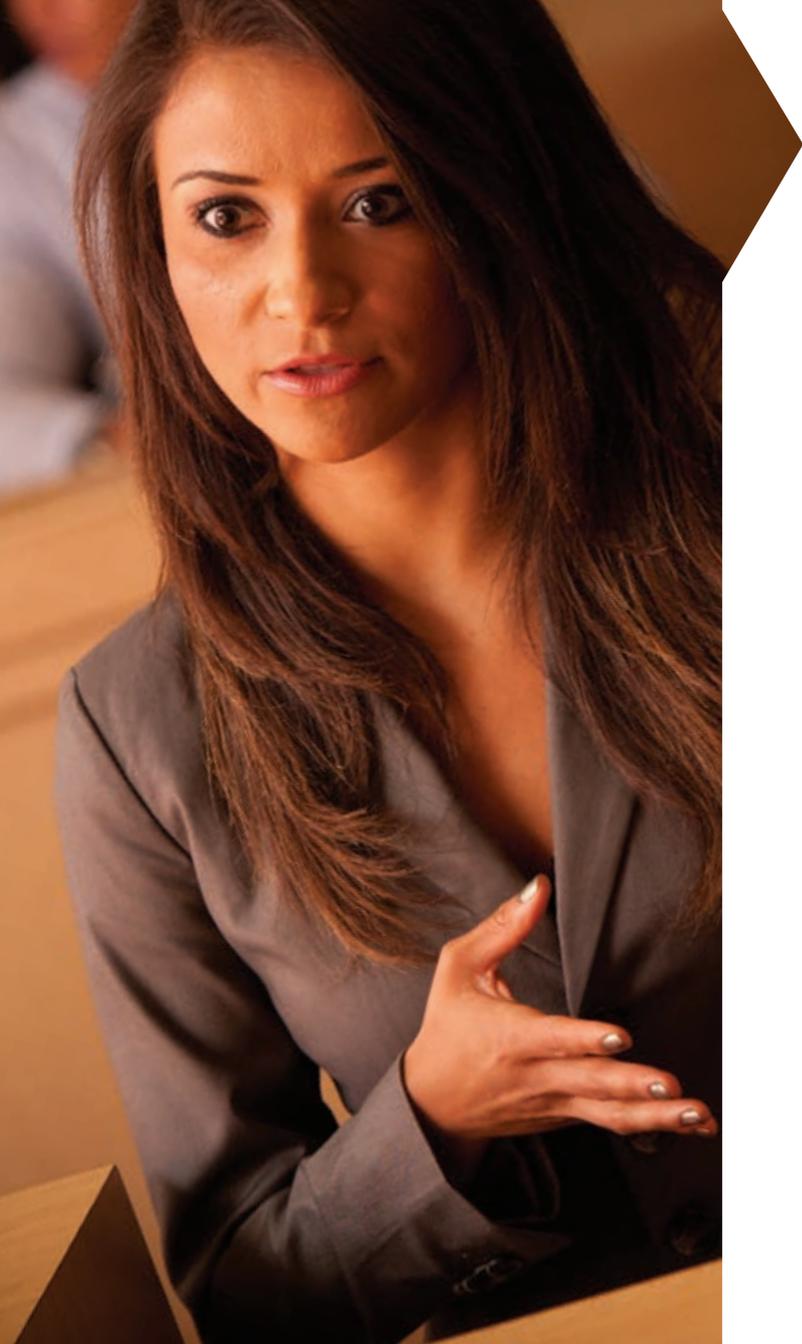
Academic Programs and Legal Practice Opportunities

At Western State College of Law, our faculty and staff take an active interest in your personal professional development. We provide individual guidance and access to a wide range of exciting opportunities in the field to help you find your legal niche. Our goal is to help you develop your skills and strengths, build your resume, and prepare for placement.

Legal Opportunities such as the Immigration Clinic, Business Law Center, Criminal Law Practice Center, Externships, Law Review, Moot Court, Mock Trial, or Negotiation Competitions will help you gain hands-on lawyering experience and enhance your professional profile. By earning a certificate in Family Practice, Real Estate Practice, Business Law, Criminal Law Studies or Immigration Law Practice, you can demonstrate extra preparation in your area of specialty to potential employers. Exposure to real world legal settings, practical experience, and invaluable contacts with alumni and other practitioners will assist you in the transition to the job market and throughout your professional career.

WESTERN STATE
COLLEGE
OF LAW





J.D. Curriculum

The program of study for the Juris Doctor degree requires a minimum of 87 units. Some core courses are required (including all the courses in the first year), while others are electives. The program is designed to be completed in as little as 3 academic years (2 semesters per year) of full-time study, or in 4 years of part-time study. Full-time students typically enroll for 15 units per semester and are not required to take summer classes. Part-time students take 9 or 10 units per semester and also 3 to 5 units in the summer to complete the program in 4 years. It may be possible to take additional units in the summer session.

Fall Start Program

Students who start in the Fall have the option for full-time, part-time day or part-time evening study. Classes begin in mid-August. Entering students participate in a mandatory Orientation and one-credit first semester “Introduction to Legal Methods” course which begins one week prior to the mid-August main session.

Spring Start Program

Students who start in the Spring term (early January) have the option for full-time or part-time evening study. Classes begin in the first week of January. Entering students participate in a mandatory Orientation and one-credit first semester “Introduction to Legal Methods” course which begins one week prior to the mid-January main session.

Academic Success Program

Providing the tools to help you succeed — in law school and in law practice.

The Strategies to Enhance Legal Learning and Achieve Results (S.T.E.L.L.A.R.) Academic Support program provides you with instruction, assistance and encouragement to help you develop the skills and strategies you need to successfully complete law school, pass the bar exam and practice in the profession. Our full-time faculty will guide you as you develop the critical reading, briefing, and analytical skills necessary for academic success, as well as the practical lawyering skills that will sustain you through the bar exam and beyond.

The 1L Program — A place to hone your skills

Our innovative first year curriculum includes Introduction to Legal Methods, an introductory academic and practical skills course, designed to provide 1L students the opportunity to acquire skills needed to succeed in law school and beyond.

Our small class sizes; team-based collaborative learning model; and supportive full-time faculty set our program apart and give you a unique opportunity to develop as a professional from your very first day of class. You'll have the chance to practice and hone your skills, based on individualized feedback, and to grow as a professional in an encouraging and supportive environment.

Develop and master the skills you need to succeed in law school and the legal profession, including:



Strategies to use your learning style to your advantage

Case reading and briefing skills

Classroom preparation and participation skills

Legal analysis skills

Exam techniques

Writing and organizational skills

Development of professional values

Dean's Fellows — Support from dedicated student leaders

Our Dean's Fellows — successful second and third year students — are available to provide you with individual guidance and assistance. The Dean's Fellows have been selected because of their demonstrated academic success and commitment to the law school community.

They are available for walk-in assistance and advice. They come highly recommended by faculty and their peers — which means you know you are getting advice from students with a proven record of success who want to help you learn and succeed.

A Center for Student Learning

The Student Learning Center is a key component of the S.T.E.L.L.A.R. program. The Center is stocked with study aids, practice materials and other resources — all at your disposal, open and accessible without an appointment. You can practice your writing skills and get instant feedback from one of our Dean's Fellows; try out our study aids and find out which materials work best for you; or get advice from one of our Dean's Fellows.

Preparing you for the Bar Exam

Courses like Basic Bar Studies and Solving Legal Problems help students start early to acquire the skills and substantive knowledge required for success on the bar exam and in the first year of practice. Our mission is to help you succeed through practice, simulation, and feedback. You'll have the chance to review substantive topics; practice and receive feedback on essay and performance exam questions; and attend special workshops geared toward improving bar exam skills. And of course the hallmarks of our S.T.E.L.L.A.R. program — individualized encouragement and support — are also a key part of the bar preparation programs. The S.T.E.L.L.A.R. program offers you the best opportunity to succeed — in law school, on the bar exam, and as a respected professional.



First-Year Legal Writing & Research

Western State students take a year-long course during their first year of law school that is focused on developing the practical skills lawyers use most: legal research, analysis, writing, and oral advocacy.

Throughout the year, students receive fact patterns and background information on various “clients” and then research, read, and analyze the law so they can advise and advocate for their client. The client situations are generally based on current legal issues in criminal and civil law. Students draft multiple forms of legal communications, including legal memoranda, court briefs, settlement letters, and professional emails. Students receive both group and individual instruction throughout the year, and personalized feedback at various stages of the writing process. With an emphasis on preparing students for legal practice, the program trains students to use not only “traditional” book-based legal research resources and the major paid online search engines (such as Westlaw, Lexis, and Bloomberg), but also emphasizes the many free online sources that lawyers use most often.

The first year course also integrates professionalism. As part of this focus, lawyers and judges - generally Western State alums - are invited to speak with students in class regarding professionalism in practice each semester. Students see and hear real-life application of what they are learning in class, and they are able to engage in valuable networking opportunities right in the classroom. During the second semester, students also have the opportunity to visit the California Court of Appeals for the 4th District, observe oral arguments, and discuss matters of substance and presentation with the appellate justices afterward.

Significant class time during the second semester is devoted to developing, organizing, and practicing oral arguments. The course culminates in a 1L Moot Court Competition in which every student participates. For many students, this is the highlight of their first year! Students present their final oral argument before a panel of lawyers and judges. The top oralists from the 1L Moot Court Competition are invited to the Final Rounds, held on campus in the Moot Court Room; faculty, students and family members of the finalists are invited to observe these Final Rounds, giving students their first taste of a “real” moot court competition.

Upper Level Writing Courses

Students have the opportunity to hone their skills in upper level writing courses as well. These elective courses, designated by the Associate Dean to be offered as writing seminars, are often taught by lawyers and judges, so students get real-world exposure to the research and writing skills used in practice. Students can choose courses based on their interests, including Juvenile Law, National Security Law, International Business Transactions, and Domestic Violence. These courses are taught in small sections, giving students the opportunity to work closely with their professors and receive personalized one-on-one feedback on their written work. Recently offered electives designated as Upper Level Writing Courses include:

Upper Level Writing Courses

- Death Penalty
- Domestic Violence
- Immigration Law
- International Business Transactions
- Juvenile Law
- Law of Vice
- National Security Law
- Sexuality and Gender Identity
- White Collar Crime

Advanced Professional Skills

Many elective courses also offer students the opportunity to learn, practice and demonstrate the skills of legal practice. These include:

- Advanced Appellate Advocacy
- Contracts Drafting
- Evidence Practice
- Family Law
- Immigration Law
- Interviewing and Counseling
- Law Practice Management
- Mediation
- Medical Malpractice Litigation
- Moot Court
- Negotiations
- Pre-Trial Litigation: Civil
- Pre-Trial Litigation: Criminal
- Real Estate Transactions
- Solving Legal Programs
- Trial Practice: Civil
- Trial Practice: Criminal
- Wills & Trusts Drafting



Experiential Learning

Insights from Legal Practice in the Classroom

Western State seeks to foster law students' development as legal professionals throughout law school. When faculty bring examples from their practical legal experience into the classroom, they engage their students and illustrate how theory comes together in practice. These exercises provide a lens outside of the standard case method of instruction to help students understand the law and its application and to help students prepare for the day to day reality of practicing law.



Certificate Programs

Students at Western State College of Law have the opportunity to earn a certificate in a choice of growing and dynamic practice areas, namely business law, criminal law, immigration law, family law, and real estate. To receive a certificate, students must complete a rigorous course of study involving a combination of required courses, electives, and – in most cases – experiential learning and pro bono/public service. The required courses enable students to gain the fundamental components of these practice areas, which are often interdisciplinary in nature. A range of elective courses provide students with the flexibility to craft their law school education around their own interests and career goals.

All of the certificates expose students to the realities of practice in addition to the theories and doctrines behind each area of law. A full-time member of the Western State faculty with prior practice experience in the certificate's subject matter area directs each certificate program. By including experiential learning through the law school's externship and clinical programs, the certificates expose students to practical skills training in which they receive certification from the State Bar of California to directly represent real clients. And the pro bono and public service requirements reflect the law school's commitment to serving the community.

Business Law Certificate

- Required courses: Administrative Law, Business Associations, Business Law Ethics, Contracts I and II, Contracts Drafting, Federal Income Taxation, Financial Principles/Corp. Finance and Sales
- Elective courses: 5 units, earned through a range of courses such as Entertainment Law, Environmental Law, Intellectual Property, Sports Law, etc.

Criminal Law Studies Certificate

- Required courses: Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Trial Practice (Criminal), Criminal Justice Ethics
- Required Experiential Learning: 5 units, earned through Criminal Law Externship
- Elective courses: 3 units, earned through a range of courses such as Death Penalty, Law of Vice, National Security, Juvenile Law, etc.
- Pro bono/public service requirement: 15 hours

Immigration Law Practice Certificate

- Required courses: Immigration Law, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Constitutional Law
- Required Experiential Learning: 5 units, earned either through Immigration Clinic or Civil Externship (with immigration law placement)
- Elective courses: 6 units, earned through a range of courses such as Administrative Law, Criminal Justice Ethics, Advanced Immigration Clinic, International Human Rights, etc.
- Pro bono requirement: 25 hours

Family Law Practice Certificate

- Required courses: Property I and II, Community Property, Federal Income Taxation and Family Law
- Required Experiential Learning: 5 units, earned either through Immigration Clinic or Civil Externship (both requiring a family practice component).
- Elective courses: 6 units, earned through a range of courses such as Juvenile Law, Domestic Violence, Law Practice Management, etc.
- Pro bono/public service requirement: 15 hours

Real Estate Practice Certificate

- Required courses: Contracts I and II, Property I and II, Community Property
- Required Experiential Learning: 5 units, earned through a Civil Externship with a real estate law-related placement.
- Elective courses: 7 units, earned through a range of courses such as Federal Income Taxation, Wills and Trusts Drafting, Real Estate Transactions and Real Estate Secured Transactions, etc.
- Pro bono/public service requirement: 15 hours

Business Law Center

The Business Law Center is an exceptional place to gain the skill sets, experiences, and contacts to begin and enhance a business law career.

Outside of the classroom, Western State's Business Law Center invites a variety of speakers to campus, hosts networking opportunities for our students, and works with our Externship Program to secure meaningful practical Business Law experience for our students. Student activities, such as the Business Law Association and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), provide Business Law students with a variety of on-campus leadership opportunities.

Inside the classroom, Western State's Business Law curriculum reflects a broad offering of rigorous courses at the nexus of law and business. The Business Law Center strives to ensure that students can develop a repertoire of legal and business skills demanded by a globally competitive economic marketplace.

Contracts and Business Associations are part of the required foundational coursework for all Western State students. All upper-level students at Western State may then choose from a wide variety of Business Law electives, such as Intellectual Property, and Securities Regulation.



Business Law Elective Courses

Western State College of Law offers students a broad range of electives including:

- Arbitration
- Business Law Ethics
- Civil Practice Externships
- Consumer Finance Law
- Contracts Drafting
- Copyright Law
- Corporate Finance and Accounting for Lawyers

For students looking to go beyond an elective or two in Business Law, the Business Law Certificate program allows them to focus on a specific, broad, and deep course of study in Business Law. Students who complete the Business Law Certificate program will earn a permanent designation of this specialty on their transcripts.

Western State's Business Law Certificate Program provides students with:

- A mastery of skill sets — including accounting, finance, tax, decision-making, game modeling, and economics as they pertain to legal analysis
- The proficiency to negotiate, structure, and document complex transactions, from entrepreneurial business entity formation to structuring corporate mergers and acquisitions or responding to regulatory inquiries
- An integrative education that blends substantive legal theory, practical experience, professional skills, and a strong ethical foundation
- Graduates are ready to act as effective counselors, decision makers, and leaders in nearly any business setting

Western State's Business Law courses are taught by faculty who possess strong practical and theoretical backgrounds in addition to their strong practical experience. Many of our Business Law faculty members hold advanced degrees and credentials, such as MBAs, CPAs, patent lawyer registrations, and LLMs.

- Employment Law
- Entertainment Law
- Environmental Law
- Federal Income Tax
- Intellectual Property Law
- International Business Transactions
- Law Practice Management
- Mediation
- Moot Court
- Negotiations
- Real Estate Transactions
- Secured Transactions
- Securities Regulations
- White Collar Crime
- Wills and Trusts Drafting

Criminal Law Practice Center

Western State's Criminal Law Practice Center (CLPC) is a comprehensive program that expands the teaching of criminal law far beyond the customary law school curriculum.

The CLPC brings together practicing criminal defense attorneys, prosecutors, judges, legal scholars, law enforcement, and community leaders who contribute their experience and diversity of perspectives to the students' educational opportunities. This fusion of the practical and the theoretical is reinforced with coursework ranging from advanced courses in criminal trial practice, pretrial criminal litigation, and criminal procedure to seminars on domestic violence, the death penalty, juvenile law, traditional vice behaviors, and criminal justice ethics.

Students with a special interest in criminal law may earn a Certificate in Criminal Law Studies while completing their J.D. CLPC students concentrate on criminal law and advocacy in their upper-division elective courses including externships in Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties with prosecutors and public defenders.

Learn from experienced faculty

The CLPC's full time faculty are distinguished legal scholars and as well as experienced practitioners. Most have considerable expertise at weaving "real-world" scenarios into the teaching of legal theory. The adjunct faculty members include experienced prosecutors and public defenders, judges, and appellate court research attorneys.

Externships and volunteer opportunities provide real life "hands-on" experience where law students can truly make a difference in people's lives. The Center arranges tours of various facilities associated with the California criminal justice system, such as the Orange County Crime Lab, the Orange County Juvenile Hall, the Orange County Coroner's Office, and the California District Court of Appeals, among many others. The CLPC also hosts speakers, events, and seminars. All of these programs help students gain an understanding of how the entire criminal justice system operates, as well as the law's human side.

Criminal Law Elective Courses

Western State College of Law offers students a broad range of electives:

- Criminal Justice Ethics
- Death Penalty Seminar
- Domestic Violence Seminar
- Evidence Practice
- Immigration Law Seminar
- Juvenile Law
- Law of Vice
- National Security Law
- Pre-Trial Criminal Litigation
- Prosecutor/Defender Externship
- Prosecutor/Defender Seminar
- Trial Practice: Criminal
- White Collar Crime

Externships

Western State offers a wide variety and large number of educational placement options, matched to fit individual student goals, experience, academic standing and expectations. Students receive academic credit and individual feedback from supervisors for the legal work they perform. Every student is encouraged and has the opportunity to participate in one or more externships during their time in law school.

In addition to the time spent in their placement, student externs also meet weekly in an on-campus seminar to debrief their experiences and gain a deeper understanding of their role and the functions and responsibilities of attorneys, judges and other legal personnel.

Civil Practice Externship

Students are placed part-time in law firms, state or federal agencies, corporations or other practice settings in the civil law field. Under the supervision of an attorney, these student externs research cases, write memos, interview clients, participate in court proceedings or perform other tasks relating to civil practice. Students in civil practice externships may be eligible for certification for court appearances under State Bar rules.*

Criminal Law Externship

Students enrolled in the Criminal Law Practice Externship course work an average of 12-14 hours per week in the District Attorney, Public Defender or Alternate Defender Offices in Orange County and adjacent counties. Students in criminal law practice externships may be eligible for certification for court appearances under State Bar rules.*

First Year Summer Honors Program

First year students who are invited to participate in the Summer Honors Program will be assigned to part-time appellate, judicial, trial or civil practice externships for the eight-week summer session.

Judicial Appellate Externship

Eligible students, if selected by the judge, are placed in the chambers of either a state appellate justice or federal appellate judge. These students research and draft opinions for the jurist.

Judicial Trial Externship

Eligible students, if selected by the court, are placed in the chambers of a trial level judge in Orange County, Los Angeles or Riverside County Court, where they assist with a variety of tasks in civil or criminal cases.

Externship Benefits

In addition to earning credits toward their degree, externs gain a unique awareness of practice realities and the attendant professional obligations that they will face in their future legal careers. Externships are also viewed as a mark of distinction by many prospective employers.

*<http://admissions.calbar.ca.gov/Education/LegalEducation/PracticalTrainingofLawStudentsProgram.aspx>



ORANGE COUNTY
COURTHOUSE

Law Review

Western State University Law Review is a student-run legal journal that focuses on articles relating to California law or federal law that has a substantial impact on California. The publication is distributed both in print and online (located at LexisNexis, Westlaw and HeinOnline) to practitioners and schools throughout the world. It draws heavily on California lawyers' work and provides exceptional opportunities to build connections with the practicing bar that can lead to important work after graduation. In addition to publishing at least two journals a year, the Law Review routinely puts on a symposium, inviting speakers from across the country to debate topics such as the legalization of marijuana, and the NSA's spying program. The symposium is open to the public, and lawyers, judges and interested citizens from throughout the state come to engage and analyze the complicated issues of the day. Law Review membership is a prestigious honor and students should strive to become eligible to be part of this nationally recognized organization.

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LAW REVIEW



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ARTICLES

ASSUMPTION OF RISK AS A DEFENSE TO NEGLIGENCE
Gregory S. Serpinidis

CALIFORNIA'S EXTENSION OF COMMON CARRIER LIABILITY TO ROLLER COASTERS AND SIMILAR DEVICES: AN EXAMINATION OF *Gonzalez v. The Superior Court of Los Angeles*
Mark A. Franklin

THE NATURAL AND PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES DOCTRINE:
"YOUR ACTS ARE MY ACTS?"
Kimberly R. Bird

THE INNOCENT: CAN A CALIFORNIA INNOCENT PROTECT HELP EXERCISES BE?...
NOT IN THE ANTI-TERROISM AND EFFECTIVE DEATH PENALTY ACT (AEDPA) HAS ITS WAY
Erin Dignan

AN ATTEMPT AT A "12 STEP PROGRAM" - PRESIDENT BUSH'S COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO
REGULATE CALIFORNIA AND MEXICO'S IMMIGRATION TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION:
DOES IT STRIKE THE CORRECT SOCIETA BALANCE?
Megan L. Cepress

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Competition Teams

Interested in trial experience? We offer three competition teams to help you hone your skills and gain experience in the courtroom: Mock Trial, Honors Moot Court and Negotiations.

Mock Trial

Western State's Mock Trial team competes in Interscholastic events that provide realistic trial practice experience. Two teams represent opposing clients in a lawsuit before a panel of judges. All phases of the trial are presented by each team, from Opening Statement, to presentation of witness testimony to Closing Argument.

Honors Moot Court Team

Students are invited to join the Honors Moot Court Team based on their written brief and their performance in the 1L Moot Court Competition. These students take an Advanced Appellate Advocacy course where students have the opportunity to further explore the procedural and substantive aspects of appellate practice and prepare to compete in Moot Court Competitions. In the Advanced Appellate Advocacy course, students work on an Appellate Brief based on the record of a case that is currently on appeal at the United State Supreme Court and present a 12-minute Final Oral Argument before a panel of judges during the last week of class. These students may then represent Western State at local and national moot court competitions.

Western State students recently participated in the following Moot Court Competitions:



- Asylum & Refugee Law Moot Court Competition*
- Williams Institute Moot Court Competition*
- Saul Lefkowitz Moot Court Competition*
– *International Trademark Association, San Francisco*
- Cybercrime Moot Court Competition*
- National Juvenile Law Moot Court Competition*
- National Professional Responsibility Moot Court Competition*
- Wagner Labor Law Competition*
- Religious Freedom Moot Court Competition*
- Thurgood Marshall Memorial Moot Court Competition*
– *Federal Bar Association, Washington D.C.*

Negotiations

Every semester, the American Bar and California Bar Associations sponsor negotiation competitions between member schools in which teams of two students attempt to negotiate a resolution to a difficult legal conflict. The students are graded by a panel of judges (experienced attorneys, arbitrators, and mediators) on preparation, strategy, tactics, adaptability, credibility, and oral presentation. The competitions are held at various law schools in Northern and Southern California. Competing students receive travel expenses, as well as one unit of academic credit. Qualification for team membership is the completion of a course in negotiations with a course GPA of 2.8 or better. There may be an intraschool competition to determine team membership depending upon the number of students who apply.



“Western State provided me with a solid foundation for the practice of law, balancing academic study with practical training. Upon graduation, I was able to make a natural transition into the courtroom with invaluable confidence and experience.”

-Christine Saban, Class of 2009



Orange County's 1st Law School
Founded in 1966

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

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

Programs, credential levels, technology and scheduling options are subject to change.

Western State College of Law at Westcliff University, 16715 Von Karman Ave #100, Irvine, CA 92606 ©2017 Western State College of Law.

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