

# Alumni



WESTERN STATE  
COLLEGE OF LAW

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA | SINCE 1966

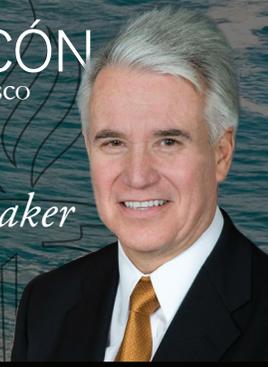
# HIGHLIGHTS

WESTERN  
STATE  
RANKED #1  
IN CALIFORNIA  
FOR BAR PREP  
BY THE NATIONAL  
JURIST

GEORGE GASCÓN  
District Attorney of San Francisco

*Announced as  
2015 graduation speaker*

Class of 1995  
Western State Hall of Fame



## ORANGE COUNTY'S OLDEST LAW SCHOOL



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STUDENT APPRECIATION DAY BBQ



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WSCL STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL  
COMPETITION



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ALUMNI INTERVIEWS

# ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Your Alumni Newsletter  
1111 N. State College Blvd. | Fullerton | CA 92831  
www.wsulaw.edu :: 714.459.1139



Alumni Highlights is Western State's quarterly Alumni eNewsletter. Stay in-the-know about the happenings of the legal community, successes of your classmates and other alumni, and upcoming events just for you! Join our mailing list.

## Kudos to you!

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

### ADVERTISERS

For more information regarding placing advertisements in Alumni Highlights, please contact:  
714.459.1139  
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### WRITERS

Would you like to contribute to Alumni Highlights? Have an idea for an article? Please contact:  
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### READERS

Your feedback is valuable to us. Please contact us with any ideas or suggestions by phone or email.  
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alumni@wsulaw.edu

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[www.wsulaw.edu](http://www.wsulaw.edu)

Dear Students, Alumni and Friends of Western State,

I want to thank the Editorial Team of Alumni Highlights for inviting me, as the newly appointed Dean of Western State College of Law, to introduce myself to readers of Alumni Highlights and share my thoughts on some of the issues facing the College of Law.

Let me say that I am thrilled to have this opportunity to lead Western State towards what I think we can all agree is a bright future. In the short time I have been at Western State, starting as a visiting professor in the fall of 2012 through my tenure as acting dean, I have grown very fond of the students, faculty and staff who are the heart and soul of this great institution.

Our two biggest challenges right now are finding a new home and attracting more students in a legal education environment that remains challenging on a national level. I can tell you that I remain focused on finding a great new home for Western State as soon as possible, one that will accommodate the expansion of our current programs while possessing the capacity for innovative programming that the faculty and I have on the drawing board.

To attract more students at our current rate of selectivity, I think it is critical that we continue to remind ourselves, and prospective students, of the strong program we offer and the outstanding results our graduates achieve. Among our alumni we have 126 active judges and commissioners. In the last six months alone, eight of our alumni were appointed to the bench. Looking at comparative data published by the ABA for Western State and the nine other California law schools with whom we regularly compete (Cal Western, Chapman, Golden Gate, La Verne, McGeorge, San Francisco, Southwestern, Thomas Jefferson and Whittier), our latest employment rate ranks second highest in the group. Looking at bar passage data, Western State is ranked first in the state and #5 nationally among the Best Schools for Bar Exam Preparation by The National Jurist Magazine (Feb. 2015).

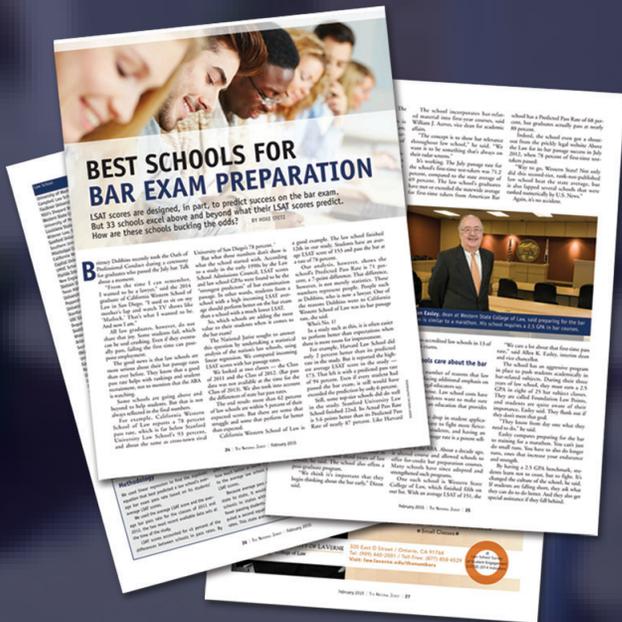
We have every reason to be proud of our successes; we need to be less shy about trumpeting those successes to the world. In the near future, I look forward to meeting with the members of the Western State community and engaging in a dialogue about those successes. I invite your comments about how we might build on those successes and I welcome your opinion about where you see the College of Law going in its fifth decade.

Sincerely,

Allen K. Easley  
Dean, Western State College of Law



# WESTERN STATE RANKED #1 FOR BAR EXAM PREPARATION IN CALIFORNIA, & #5 NATIONALLY BY NATIONAL JURIST IN FEBRUARY 2015



Allen Easley, Dean at Western State College of Law, was quoted in the February 2015 issue of *The National Jurist* magazine, which ranks WSCL as 5th in the nation and 1st in California on a list of best law schools for bar exam preparation. In addition, the piece was picked up by the TaxProf Blog, one of the top blogs for law professors.

Here is the link to the full article:  
<http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/cypress/nationaljurist0215/#/24>

[http://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof\\_blog/2015/02/the-33-law-schools-whose-students-.html](http://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof_blog/2015/02/the-33-law-schools-whose-students-.html)

## Congratulations to 1L Alfonso Maldonado



Congratulations to 1L **Alfonso Maldonado** (middle right), who received a prestigious Wally R. Davis scholarship from the Orange County Hispanic Bar Association and was recognized at the OCHBA Awards Dinner this month.



## ESLS Congratulates President of Sports Suzie Kersh and Vice President Paul Domen

Congratulations to WSCL's Mock Trial Team of Suzie Kersh, Nick Maranesi, and Paul Domen for advancing to the elimination rounds of the TYLA Mock Trial Competition in San Diego. They faced the likes of UCLA, USC, Pepperdine, Loyola Marymount, and USD, making a strong showing after the first round-placing 7th out of 22 teams. This is the first time a WSCL team has advanced in this competition.



## UNLV Bankruptcy Competition “Runner Up” winners

Congratulations to Western State students Perla Huizar and Robert Dagmy for placing second place in the 2015 Judge Lloyd George Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition.



# STUDENT APPRECIATION DAY BBQ

February 24th, 2015, Western State held its semi-annual Student Appreciation Day Barbecue, an informal event where students, faculty, and staff broke bread (tri-tip, pulled pork, grilled chicken, and a variety of sides) together in a fun and relaxed environment.



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1. Students
2. Professor Bob Molko “arresting” Professor Don Daucher
3. Dean Susan Keller and student Michiyuki Kono
4. Dean Allen K. Easley mingling with students
5. Staff members Jon Evans, Tim Hoang, & Stacy Hang
6. Student and Editor of the Precedent Kevin Koha Nguyen



# Alumni Interview

James G. Randall Farmers Insurance Company

Class of 1980



You remain involved with the current students. Could you describe your involvement and what you would like alums to glean from that?

Several years ago, as a joke, I brought a little hibachi to WSU and offered to do a “hot dog day.” It was going to be a one-time affair. It was my way of remembering what it was like during the lean years of living on hot dogs while going to law school. Several years and thousands of hot dogs later, I am honored to be able, twice a year, to have “Hot Dog Day.” When a student comes up to me and tells me they look forward to this every year or can they have a couple to take home as they can’t quite afford to buy meals for a couple of days, it shows me that every cent spent on this endeavor is worth it. It is not much, and hopefully other alumni who have earned more in the legal field can donate generously of their time and funds. My little part in giving back to WSU for what they gave to me is indeed a privilege.

What drew you to the defense side of litigation?

I was a plaintiff’s lawyer, through and through, and thought all defense lawyers wore short sleeve shirts with pocket-protectors and their pants 2-inches too short. However, after taking on the BSA on behalf of my sons, (not being a popular thing to do in Orange County) I found myself unemployed. A former classmate of my wife, also a WSU alum, called and offered me a job as a defense lawyer in the insurance business. I politely told him thank you but no thank you and it would be a “cold day in hell” before I ever came to work for an insurance company. Well, one day it became awful cold and 24-years later I am still a defense lawyer, and proud of it, and wondering why I was ever on the plaintiff’s side.

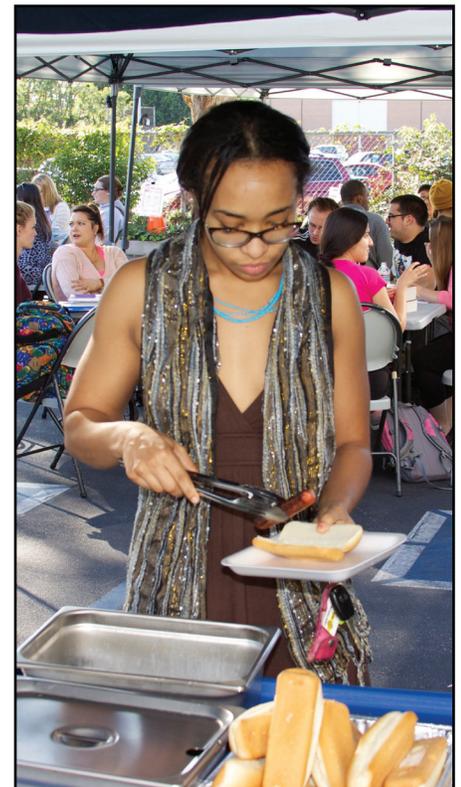
Your son recently graduated from Western State and is now in practice. What one thing did you want him to know that you wish somebody had told you when you were starting?

To be a good lawyer takes a heart, a brain, a soul, and an understanding that this is not a 9-5 job. Appreciate the wisdom/experience of others but be true to yourself. Anyone can process paperwork but it takes a love of the profession, dedication to the cause, and a thorough understanding of the law, to succeed quality legal services.



James G. Randall (Class of 1980), Dean Allen K. Easley, and William D. Randall (Class of 2008)

“ To be a good lawyer takes a heart, a brain, a soul, and an understanding that this is not a 9-5 job. Appreciate the wisdom/ experience of others but be true to yourself.”



# Alumni Interview

## Brian J. McCormack

Class of 1993



Partner – Callahan & Blaine

**CALLAHAN & BLAINE**  
CALIFORNIA'S PREMIER LITIGATION FIRM™

“The first thing that I learned was, ‘law is a jealous mistress,’ but I never believed it. I certainly came to understand that in order to succeed at my level, it is certainly a 7 day a week, 20 hrs a day thing.”

Of what success are you most proud?

Attended law school while working full time. My wife and I had zero children when I began law school. We had three children by the time I graduated (now four).

In 2003, with my senior partner Dan Callahan, after a 12 week trial, we obtained the largest verdict in OC history, \$934 million. Case Name: Beckman Coulter vs. Flextronics

What do you like most about the practice of law?

The facts of every case are unique. I’ve had cases involving everything from failed airplane engines, roadway design, contract disputes, and misappropriation of trade secrets.

I’ve had the opportunity to travel extensively throughout the United States, plus Canada, Paris, London, Singapore and Taiwan.

As a partner at a firm of experienced litigators, what would you recommend that students and new admitees begin doing to bring themselves to the firm’s level?

I tell every law student that I meet to determine what area of practice interests them and to do whatever it takes to pursue a career in that area of law.

For example, if you are interested in civil ligation do that. If you’re interested in criminal defense do that. That is the secret to a long-term career that you will enjoy. If you have no interest in the field you are in, you will never be as successful as you can be.

How has the practice of law changed from when you first started?

The use of electronic communications and data storage has brought a shift from stacks of paper documents to electronic disconnect.

Our trial preparation and presentation has become very high tech. We scan in every document so we can electronically display documents and evidence to the jury. Our opening and closing arguments can incorporate documents, demonstrative evidence, video excerpts of deposition testimonies – all displayed to the jury on a movie screen or TV screen.

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## Creating A Successful Solo Practice from Scratch

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Ivy Blum (Class of 2011) of Grigoryan & Blum Law Group returned to campus on January 27 to share her experience with starting her own practice. Ivy provided practical considerations that most new attorneys may not consider when starting a new business. “The bottom line is going from nothing to something and what it takes ... besides a JD!” she challenged students during her noontime presentation. Ivy described her client development techniques (what works, what doesn’t), the practical aspects of being a business owner, and finding a good work/life balance in the practice of law. Ivy’s presentation was filled with practical advice and she was a great motivator on successfully becoming one’s own boss.

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## “How to Become the Ideal Law Clerk”

Western State alumni, Michael Jeandron (class of 2014) and Armond Jackson (class of 2011) joined Jeff Roberts of the Roberts Law Firm in Newport Beach to talk with students on February 2. Jeff shared his experience in hiring law clerks for his personal injury litigation firm and the qualities that set the top candidates apart from others. Michael Jeandron talked about his own experience starting as a law clerk at the Roberts Law Firm and the strategies he implemented to become an associate attorney and an invaluable part of the

firm. Armond Jackson, currently an associate attorney with Pedersen McQueen, APLC, in Irvine, shared his experiences as a law clerk with the firm in 2011 and his return to the firm as an associate attorney in 2013. Armond explained that even as a law clerk, he approached each project as though it was his own case. In one instance, he identified the single document out of an extensive document review assignment that ultimately turned the case in their client’s favor.

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## Business Law Resource Center Speed Mentoring

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Western State’s Business Law Resource Center was the venue for the Business Law Center’s (BLC) first Speed Mentoring event on January 27. The mixer, hosted by the Business Law Center and Career Resources, was attended by attorneys Grant Hallstrom, Matthew Syken, James Pham, and BLC Director, Professor Tracie Porter, who mingled with students and discussed business law related topics. The evening, featuring a light reception, was a great success with each of the students coming away with business cards, new friends, and legal mentors.

Recent graduates and alumni are always welcome to attend events and workshops. If you have questions or an idea for a new topic, please contact Pam Davidson at [pdavidson@wsulaw.edu](mailto:pdavidson@wsulaw.edu); we look forward to seeing you back on campus soon!

Western State has over 11,000 Alumni. Its members include judges, district attorneys, public defenders, city attorneys, corporate counsel, and private practitioners, along with individuals of every conceivable professional endeavor throughout the nation.



2012 Judges' Night

# ALUMNI KUDOS



**Anabella Bonfa** (Class of 1994) recently authored a blog article, "10 Steps for an Outstanding LinkedIn Profile," that appeared on January 30th edition of the CEB Blog.



**David Boyd** (Class of 1980) has been re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Orange County Board of Education, representing District 2.

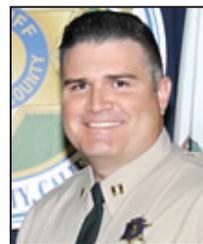


**Jan M. Flory** (Class of 1986) was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Orange County Water District. She previously served a four year term on OCWD's Board in 1999. Flory has also served as Fullerton's Mayor.

**Evan Ginsburg** (Class of 1978) recently won a \$1.397 million verdict in Riverside County Superior Court on behalf of four siblings against an uncle who had molested them as children.



**Vincent Howard** (Class of 2003) of Howard Law has been named 2015 President-Elect of the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association. He currently serves as a Western State Dean's Counselor and has just been named a Super Lawyer by Thomson Reuters.



**Jason Huskey** (Class of 2000) has been promoted to Captain at the Riverside County Sheriff's Department and Commander of the Coroner's Bureau. He previously served as Lieutenant at the Professional Standards Bureau and is Section Chair of the California Peace Officers Association's Legal Advisors Committee.



**Christopher Kouroush Jafari** (Class of 2000) recently won a verdict for \$3.5 million on behalf of his client in the breach of contract case of Gorman v. Myers in Orange County Superior Court.



**Professor Theodore Johnson** (Class of 1972) of the Heller School for Policy and Management at Brandeis University was recently presented with the Heller Mentorship Award.



**Erin Muellenberg** (Class of 1989) of Arendt Fox was recently named partner of the firm's Healthcare Practices Group in Los Angeles.



**Shawn Nelson** (Class of 1995) has been unanimously elected Chair of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority Board of Directors, the governing body of Metrolink.



**William Shapiro** (Class of 1978) recently received the 2015 CAL-ABOTA Trial Lawyer of the Year Award, by many accounts the highest honor a California trial lawyer can receive. The California Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates awards it annually to the attorney who most exhibits excellence in advocacy, a distinguished career, and a reputation for civility, ethics, and fair play.



**John Slawson** (Class of 1976) has been appointed Judge to the Los Angeles County Superior Court by Governor Brown. He has previously served as Commissioner to that Court.



**Eric V. Traut** (Class of 1989) was interviewed for a feature story on the effectiveness of expedited jury trials in the January 29th issue of *The Los Angeles Daily Journal*.



**Joe Wojcik** (Class of 1994) has been re-elected Trustee to the Hemet Unified School District Board of Education. He is a partner with the Hemet firm of Davis & Wojcik.



**John Zitny** (Class of 1984), Chief Deputy San Bernardino County Public Defender's Office, has been appointed Judge to the Orange County Superior Court by Governor Brown.

Please let us know about your accomplishments, in and out of the legal community.  
Your fellow alumni and classmates want to know.  
[jcheydluer@wsulaw.edu](mailto:jcheydluer@wsulaw.edu)



The WSCL Immigration Clinic presents  
**A TOWN HALL DISCUSSION**

On President Obama's Executive Actions and the Future of Administrative Immigration Relief

**Thursday, March 19, 2015 | 4 – 5:30PM**  
**ROOM 102 (Western State Law Campus)**

**WSCL EVENT**

# 2014 - 2015 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

## THANK YOU

### ADVOCATES

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Gregory L. Bentley  
*Class of 1990, Hall of Fame,  
Dean's Counselor*

Gary Chambers  
*Class of 1978, Hall of Fame,  
Dean's Counselor*

Matt Clark

Laurel Peniche-Gartman  
*Class of 1987*

Gregory G. Rizio

Robinson Calcagnie Robinson  
Shapiro Davis, Inc

Douglas W. Schroeder  
*Class of 1988, Hall of Fame,  
Dean's Counselor*

The Law Offices of Douglas W.  
Schroeder

William D. Shapiro  
*Class of 1978, Hall of Fame,  
Dean's Counselor*

Shernoff Bidart Echeverria  
Bentley LLP

Stegmeier, Gelbart, Schwartz  
& Benavente, LLP

Jeffrey Witjas  
*Class of 1979 | Hall of Fame*

### BARRISTERS

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Chambers, Noronha & Kubota

DarrasLaw

Ivy B. Grigoryan  
*Class of 2011*

Yoshiaki C. Kubota  
*Class of 1994, Hall of Fame,  
Dean's Counselor*

Geraldine Ly

Keith More

Merhab Robinson, Jackson &  
Clarkson

Dr. Greg O'Brien  
*Board Member, Chair*

Rose Pothier  
*Class of 1977, Hall of Fame*

James G. Randall  
*Class of 1980*

Rizio & Nelson

Jason Schwartz  
*Class of 2000*

### SOLICITORS

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ACI Consulting

APA - Agency for the  
Performing Arts

James Beckman  
*Class of 1988*

Steve Bell  
*Class of 2015*

Jimmy Cabral  
*Class of 2012*

Chase Litigation

Cynthia Craig-Kubota

Lewis R. Crouse, II  
*Class of 1988*

Cummins & White, LLP

Robert Dagmy  
*Class of 2016*

Shawn Dhillon  
*Class of 2013*

DiMarco | Araujo | Montevideo

John P. Dolan  
*Class of 1978*

Allen K. Easley  
*Dean and Vice Chancellor*

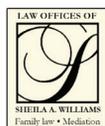


**SOLICITORS (CONT.)**

Donna Espinoza <i>Senior Assistant Dean, Student Affairs</i>	Susan Keller <i>Associate Dean for Academic Affairs</i>	Justin Neerhof	SA Legal Suites
Hon. Tom Garza <i>Class of 1985</i>	Joyce Kelly	Onisko & Scholz, LLP	Stacey Sobel <i>Associate Professor of Law</i>
Saul M. Gelbart	Ted Kubota	Hon. John Pacheco <i>Class of 1981</i>	Nicole Surratt
Jim Guziak	Lawyers' Mutual Insurance	Pedersen McQueen	Traut Firm
Adam Harris	Patricia Lee-Gulley <i>Class of 1988, Hall of Fame, Dean's Counselor</i>	Tracie Porter Associate <i>Professor of Law</i>	Bill Weathers <i>Class of 1977</i>
Evan Holmes		Bryan Reid	Sheila Williams <i>Class of 1980</i>
HG Litigation	Suzanne Leslie <i>Class of 1986</i>	ADR Office of Michelle A. Reinglass	Kim Wilson
Amy Holmes		Jane Riley-Pugh	Veritext
Hughes and Hughes	John MacDonald, Inc.	Solange Ritchie <i>Class of 1994, Hall of Fame, Dean's Counselor</i>	Wallin & Klarich
Linda Iannelli <i>Class of 1992</i>	MEA Forensic	Roberts Law Firm	The Law Office of Sheila A. Williams
Winnie Jow <i>Class of 2015</i>	Philip Merkel <i>Professor of Law</i>	Lori Roberts <i>Professor of Law</i>	The Law Offices of Steven R. Young
	Christopher Montes de Oca <i>Class of 2006, Dean's Counselor</i>		



SHERNOFF BIDART  
ECHEVERRIA BENTLEY  
LAWYERS FOR INSURANCE POLICYHOLDERS





### Immigration Law Students' Trip Featured in ABA Publication

A field trip to the U.S.-Mexican border taken last year by students in Professor Jennifer Koh's Immigration Law class was described in the January 2015 issue of the ABA publication *The Student Lawyer*. Students participating in the day-long trip visited first with Customs and Border Patrol officials, and then with volunteers from a humanitarian organization that works with migrants. The trip formed the basis of an experience-based memo assignment. Professor Koh was quoted on her observation that the experience caused students to question their assumptions, gave students a much broader sense of possible immigration law career paths, and that students were "exposed to the legal system in a new way, and . . . able to see how the law has a deep influence in our country and on people's individual lives."

### Western State Students Win National Moot Court Competition



Congratulations to our Honors Moot Court students for their award-winning victories at the 20th Annual National Juvenile Law Moot Court Competition. 2Ls Larissa Parker and Zoha Khan won the competition, and Zoha earned the "#10 Top Oralist" award. 2Ls Jonathan Martinez and Christopher Gipe advanced to the quarter final rounds and won the "Distinguished Brief" award for writing the third best brief in the competition. Jonathan also earned the "#5 Top Oralist" award. They were coached by Professors Monica Todd and Elizabeth Jones.

### Mia Lomedico selected for a law clerk position through CELA

Western State student Mia Lomedico has been selected for a law clerk position offered through the prestigious CELA organization (California Employment Lawyers Association). CELA's program arranges interviews for students desiring to join an employment law firm for a 10-week summer clerkship. Mia will be joining a CELA-member firm in Orange County for her Summer 2015 position. CELA also offers an employee justice fellowship stipend, the selections for which will be announced in January 2015. Congratulations, Mia!

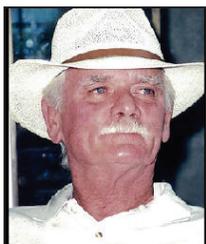


# IN FOND MEMORY



**The Western State community mourns the loss of the following alumni.**

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**Nelson Buck** (Class of 1974) – Graduated from Western State’s evening program while a defense engineer; became a San Bernardino County Deputy District Attorney and subsequently the first County Counsel of Tehama County.

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**Edward H. Drayer** (Class of 1973) – Father of five; former Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney and professor at Cerritos College. Served as Los Angeles County Superior Court Commissioner from 2000 to 2010 and was elected City Councilman of Bellflower and then Mayor of Bellflower.

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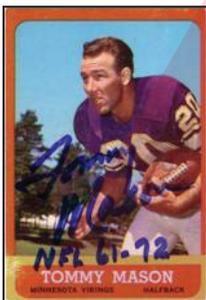
**Elaine Ehlert** (Class of 1980) – Mother of four, attended Western State and passed the bar while working as a legal secretary. Former professional figure skater, dance studio owner, and dance teacher.

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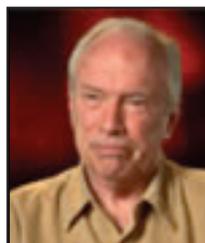
**Thomas William Green** (Class of 1974) – Former combat pilot and commercial pilot for Continental Airlines; following graduation from Western State’s evening program practiced twenty years as a State Bar certified estate planning attorney in Irvine.

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**Thomas Mason** (class of 1976) – First ever draft pick for the Minnesota Vikings in 1961. All star running back for the Vikings and the Rams; eighth all-time Viking’s rusher and three-time Pro Bowl selection. Graduated from Western State’s part-time program, passed the bar, and ran several successful business enterprises.

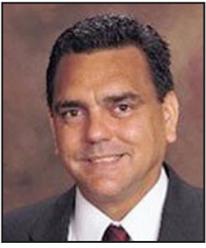
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**Nick O'Malley** (Class of 1971) – A noted figure in the development of surf-rock; with Dick Dale, O'Malley co-founded the Del-Tones, and played guitar on their early recordings. He graduated from Western State’s part-time program and switched to a career in law that lasted forty years.

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## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



**Professor Stephen Chavez** presented at the Legal Writing Institute's (LWI) one day seminar which took place at Southern Illinois University Law School, in Carbondale, Illinois, on December 12. The theme of the seminar was "Preparing Practice Ready Students." Professor Chavez's presentation, "Starting From Scratch: Developing Scratcher Exercises for Student Motivation and Engagement," was designed to help both new and veteran instructors motivate students to participate in class discussions and group activities through the use of "scratcher" cards.

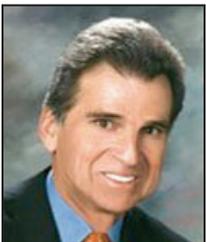
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**Professor Jennifer Koh** has weighed in with her thoughts on *Mellouli v. Holder*, a case currently pending before the United States Supreme Court, in *CrImmigration.com*. In her entry, "Rethinking Removability for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (aka a Sock)," Prof. Koh discusses the application of the categorical approach – the methodology used by the courts to determine the immigration consequences of criminal convictions. She urges the Supreme Court to find that the noncitizen's one-time conviction for possession of drug paraphernalia (in this case, a sock) should not have formed the basis of a removability finding. In law review articles published in the *Georgetown Immigration Law Journal* and *Florida Law Review*, Prof. Koh has written extensively regarding the categorical approach and on the intersection of criminal and immigration law.

The field trip to the U.S.-Mexico border taken last year by students in Professor Koh's Immigration Law class was described in the January 2015 issue of the ABA publication *The Student Lawyer*. Students participating in the day-long trip visited first with Customs and Border Patrol officials, and then with volunteers from a humanitarian organization that works with migrants. The trip formed the basis of an experience-based memo assignment. Professor Koh was quoted on her observation that the experience caused students to question their assumptions, gave students a much broader sense of possible immigration law career paths, and that students were "exposed to the legal system in a new way, and . . . able to see how the law has a deep influence in our country and on people's individual lives."

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**Professor Robert Molko's** article, "The Drones are Coming! Will the Fourth Amendment Stop Their Threat to Our Privacy?", 78 *Brook. Law Rev.* 1279 (2013), was cited by the New Mexico Attorney General in her July 31, 2014 Appellate Brief to the New Mexico Supreme Court in the case of *State v. Norman Davis*. Argued before that court in January 2015, the central issue of the case is whether aerial surveillance by police constitutes a search requiring a warrant.

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**Professor Glenn Koppel**, a member of the American Law Institute, just returned from a two-day meeting, at the ALI headquarters in Philadelphia, of the Members Consultative Group for the Restatement Fourth, *The Foreign Relations Law of the United States*. The meeting was called to solicit members' comments on drafts covering sovereign immunity, jurisdiction and treaties.

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On December 13, Adjunct **Professor Neil Pedersen** presented a half-day seminar to young lawyers from all the Orange County law schools entitled "Hit the Floor Running: Practical Advice for New Attorneys." Organized by Career Services' Pam Davidson and held on the Western State campus, Professor Pedersen provided 75 nuggets of wisdom for young lawyers on topics that included time management, the written and spoken word, building competence, professional conduct, problem identification and problem solving, client handling, business development, and surviving and thriving in the practice of law. It was well received and is now being planned as a recurring program.

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**Adjunct Professor Carolyn Dillinger** has created JumpStart Genius, a software that helps law students and attorneys start and manage their own law firms. Professors Neil Pedersen and Kevin Mohr provided significant contribution to the content of the software. Check it out at [www.JumpStartGenius.com](http://www.JumpStartGenius.com).



**Adjunct Professors Neil Pedersen, Doug Schroeder and Bill Shapiro** have all been named Southern California Super Lawyers. This distinction is conferred on select attorneys based on a process that involves peer nomination, independent research and evaluation by the publisher, resulting in only about 5% of all attorneys in the state being named to the list. Professors Pedersen, Schroeder, and Shapiro join seventy three other Western State graduates named to Southern California Super Lawyers in 2015.

## MOOT COURTS



**Professor Lori Roberts**' students Robert Dagmy, 2L and Perla Huizar, 3L participated in the regional Judge Lloyd George Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition at the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, winning "Runner Up." The only awards for this competition, held the weekend of February 21, were "first place," "runner up," and "best oralist." The students researched and prepared for this competition with coach Pamela Zylstra, a local practicing bankruptcy lawyer.



**Professor Jennifer Koh** announced the outstanding performance of Western State's Immigration Law Moot Court team. Madison Burga and Angelina Lerma returned from the NYU Immigration Law Moot Court Competition, where they delivered outstanding performances. On the first day of competition, they were declared the winners in ALL three of their arguments, both on and off-brief (against teams from Boston College, Cardozo, and Quinnipiac). They advanced to the quarterfinals, where they competed against a team from Harvard Law. Professor Koh declared herself "terribly proud of them for mastering complex arguments involving constitutional law (federal preemption), and statutory bars to judicial review, which seemed to make most of the judges' heads spin (or, in a number of other cases, made the judges sit silently without asking a single question...) and also for their collegiality and professionalism throughout the competition.

She added: "The team and I would like to sincerely thank the following faculty who mooted them in the short 2.5 week window leading up to the competition: Lei Zhang (twice!), Sabrina Rivera, Ryan Williams, Don Daucher, Jacqueline Salazar, Liz Jones, Lori Roberts, Charles Sheppard, Robert Molko, Phil Merkel, Susan Keller, and Todd Brower."



**Professor Tracie Porter** announces for the first time, Western State students participated in the LawMeets Transactional Competition sponsored by Bloomberg. The students—Lauren Becker, Lawrence (Joe) Hudack, and Anthony Masi—drafted key provisions to an Asset Purchase Agreement, participated in two client conference calls, and redline-edited the opposing team's agreement before appearing at a live negotiation of the terms.

The competition was held in six regions around the country and our team participated in the Western Region at the University of Arizona in Tucson this past weekend, where 11 other schools were represented. Our team made us proud in the pre-negotiation tasks and especially at the in-person negotiations. While they did not place in the region, one of the judges who is a very experience M&A attorney commented that our team had the best written markup document she had seen and commended them on their performance.

Porter said, "along with co-coach Lei Zhang, we appreciate the support of the school and faculty in allowing us to expand our competitions to provide students with simulated real-life experiences in both litigation and non-litigation scenarios."



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