

The Western State Alumni
Legacy
Magazine

For friends and alumni of Western State College of Law





ABOUT WESTERN STATE

Founded in 1966, Western State College of Law is the oldest law school in Orange County, Southern California, and is fully ABA approved.

Noted for small classes and personal attention from an accessible faculty focused on student success, Western State maintains bar pass rates consistently in the top half of California's ABA law schools.

Western State's 11,000+ alumni are well represented across public and private sector legal practice areas, including 150 California judges and about 15% of Orange County's Deputy Public Defenders and District Attorneys.



Institutional Advancement

The Office of Institutional Advancement provides resources, programs and events to support the academic and professional aspirations of the members of the Western State community. We serve as a conduit for donor support, volunteerism and stewardship which all feed the vibrancy and continued growth of the College of Law.

The Team

James B. Cheydleur
Senior Assistant Dean
Institutional Advancement &
Admissions

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Marketing Coordinator

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Western State College of Law
1 Banting
Irvine, CA 92618

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Engaged • Innovative • Distinguished

WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW

FULLY ABA APPROVED

WESTERN STATE
RANKED #
IN CALIFORNIA FOR
BAR PREP

3

BY NATIONAL JURIST, WINTER 2017

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RANKED 10TH
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Western State College of Law is fully approved by the American Bar Association (321 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60610, (312) 988-5000).

Programs, credential levels, technology and scheduling options are subject to change. Western State College of Law at Argosy University, 1 Banting, Irvine, CA 92618-3601 © 2018 Western State College of Law. Our email address is materialsreview@wsulaw.edu.

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



WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW

AT ARGOSY UNIVERSITY

Nonprofit Private Law School • Fully ABA Approved

Engaged

With a student body of just 429 students (as of August 2018) from diverse backgrounds, Western State's supportive environment and close knit family atmosphere invite students to engage—both with each other on campus through study groups and certificate programs, and by branching into the greater legal community through internships, externships, alumni "pipeline" events, and our well-recognized and well-respected **Immigration Clinic**.

Innovative

Western State's program of study remains on the vanguard of legal education. Our graduates bring with them a reputation of practice-readiness, a result of the hands-on, experiential learning opportunities available throughout the Western State experience. Notably, our carefully designed Strategies to Enhance Legal Learning and Achieve Results (**S.T.E.L.L.A.R.**) **academic support program** has led to Western State's national recognition as one of the top schools for Bar Exam preparation.

Distinguished

Western State faculty bring to the classroom a valuable combination of academic pedigree, real experience as practicing attorneys, student-focused teaching methodology & personal accessibility. Go to <http://www.wsulaw.edu/faculty-and-staff/#full-time-faculty> to read more about Western State faculty achievement, publications, and involvement in the vibrant southern California legal community.



A | MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Western State Alumni,

On September 15, 2018 at our Hall of Fame Gala we celebrated our 50th Anniversary. Fifty years ago this coming May, Western State graduated its first class of lawyers who took the first steps towards creating a long tradition of excellence that has inured to the benefit of everyone who followed.

As we do at every Gala, we celebrated the accomplishments of four of our alumni, three of whom were inducted into the Hall of Fame (Dayn Holstrom, Pam Liosi, and Judge John Pacheco), and one of whom was recognized for his life time of achievements (Bill Shapiro).

But what I am most proud of is our great success at the Gala raising money (over \$100,000) for scholarships to help meet the needs of our future students. At the Gala, I told brief stories about two of our students, one who graduated in the 1970s, and one who is just started her second year of law school this fall, to remind us all of how important it is for us to find the resources we need to support our students.

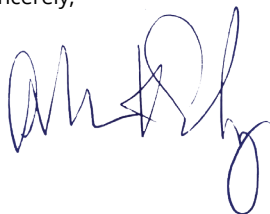
The student from the 1970s is someone we all know, whom we honored at the Gala with a life-time achievement award, Bill Shapiro. Bill has often shared this story, so many of you may already know it. But when Bill was in law school, which for him started in 1975, it was not easy for him to make ends meet. And one of the ways he kept expenses down was by living in a beat up old 1967 Chevy van. Cheap rent. Many of you are aware that today Bill has a really nice collection of well cared for classic cars, including that Chevy van, which is in much better condition today than it was back when he was a law student. Bill became an extraordinarily successful lawyer, who has expressed his gratitude for the opportunity provided to him by Western State by his extraordinary generosity in providing scholarships for a multitude of students who work hard, but face difficult financial challenges like the ones he faced as a student.

The story about our current student is emblematic of the challenges many of our students face, and the hard work they put into overcoming those challenges. I tell her story with her permission, though I will not identify her by name. Her hard work in high school earned her honors as valedictorian in her graduating class and a scholarship to attend a well-respected college. She was the first in her family to attend college. Two years in AmeriCorps helped her fund graduate school. Then she taught bilingual education to under-privileged children in Texas for four years before deciding to move back to California to attend Western State. To save money she decided to move back into her parents' apartment, a two bedroom apartment that housed her mom and her dad and her two siblings who had followed her path to college, but also needed to live at home to make ends meet. So, five adults, two bedrooms. And her brother and sister were both studying hard, at all hours of the night, making it difficult to find a place to sleep. So our student slept in the back seat of her car at least three nights a week, just to get enough sleep to be awake in class the next day.

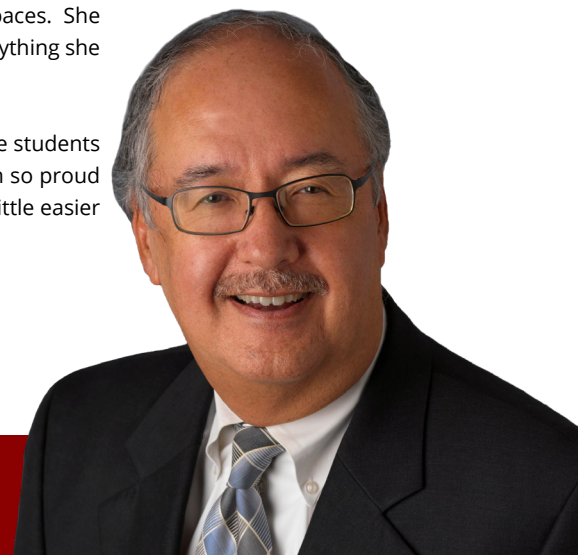
And after one semester of this, she had earned a 3.3 GPA, with not a single grade below a 3.0. Top 12% of her class. But the financial challenges faced by our student and her family are enormous. Her dad works two full-time jobs and her mom cleans houses. Our student has worked weekends with her mom to help boost her mom's income. She is at school as many hours of the day as is possible, to take advantage of our study spaces. She doesn't think her efforts make her special. She is just trying to do absolutely everything she can to become the best lawyer possible.

I think she and Bill Shapiro exemplify the grit and determination of Western State students that has led so many of them, so many of you, to great success as lawyers. I am so proud that so many of you stepped up at the Gala to help make that path to success a little easier for our students.

Sincerely,



Allen K. Easley
Dean & Professor of Law
Western State College of Law



HALL OF FAME *Gala* 2018





Newport Beach – September 15

The Balboa Bay Resort once again served well as the venue for Western State’s seminal alumni event – The Hall of Fame Gala. Well over three hundred guests gathered at the scenic local to celebrate and pay homage to four individuals: Dayn Holstrom, Pamela S. Liosi, The Honorable John Pacheco, and William D. Shapiro. The honorees’ eclectic and comprehensive records of combined achievement and success underscored Western State’s alumni ubiquity in the legal community at large.



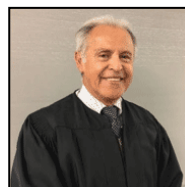
Most notably, the Gala once again showcased the alumni community’s generosity and highlighted the critical bond between donors and tomorrow’s legal professionals. Featured speakers on the program, student scholarship recipients shared their stories expressing gratitude for the generosity of alumni, whose gifts have enhanced and made possible so many burgeoning legal careers. In an evening of well-deserved accolades and overdue reconnections, the resonant message remains—the reciprocal joy of paying it forward and giving back.



Dayn Holstrom
Class of 1989



Pamela S. Liosi
Class of 1994



Hon. John Pacheco
Class of 1981



William D. Shapiro
Class of 1978
Hall of Fame
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Western State College of Law

Honorable Margaret Anderson

Class of 1977
Hall of Fame

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Beverly Bashor

Class of 2015

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Class of 2015

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Class of 2017

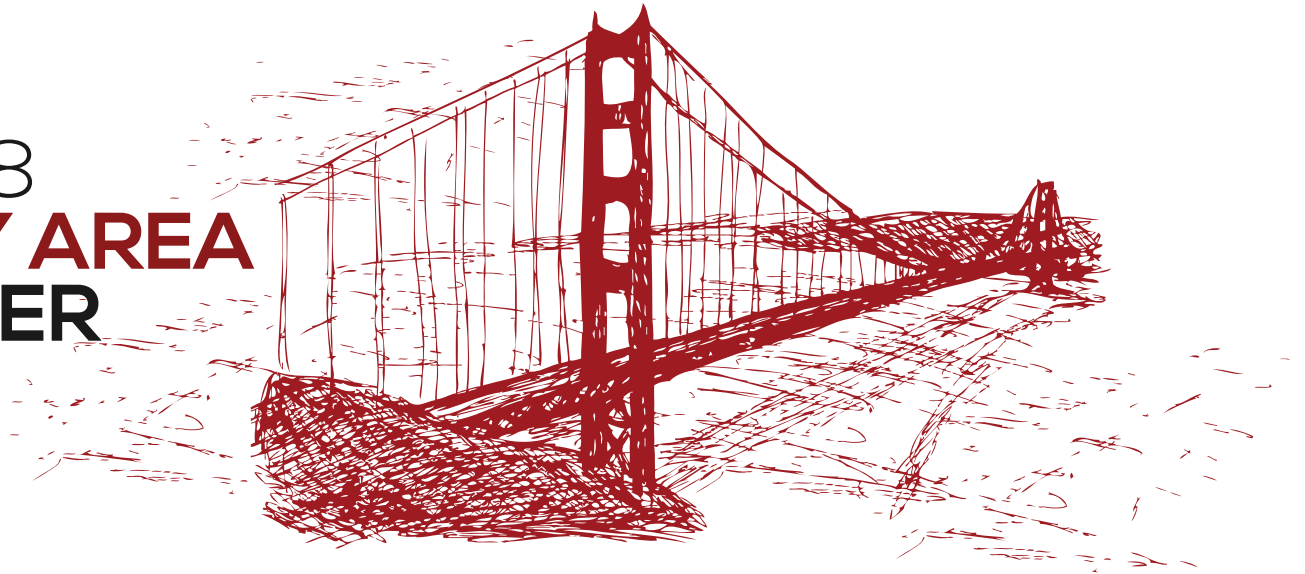
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Class of 1988**Jacob Watson****Terry Weathers****Tammy Wenzell****Chris Wesierski****Maureen Wesierski****Dee Williams****Echo Yang**
Class of 2013

2018 BAY AREA MIXER



San Francisco – November 3

Western State reached out 350 miles to mix and mingle with our Bay Area alumni constituents on a crisp Autumn night at the Waterfront Restaurant. This is the fourth time that the deans and staff of the College of Law have hosted a reception on the water at the now familiar glass-walled, open beamed venue located at Pier 7 at the base of the Bay Bridge.

Among the guests were Barry Sabahat (Class of 1992); Mara Feiger (Class of 1989); family law attorney, Christopher Dull (Class of 2008); Deputy Attorney General, Robert Reyff (Class of 1976); and Christina Luz (Class of 2010). Afterwards Dean Easley marveled at the warmth and instant bonhomie of the Bay Area alums.



STUDENTS OUTSTANDING

WESTERN STATE STUDENT WINS BEST OVERALL AWARD AT BUFFALO- NIAGARA MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

The team advanced twice to the elite eight before losing to Northwestern. The tournament involved 32 teams that included Fordham, Harvard, Catholic University, St. John, McGeorge, Florida State, Hofstra, Wisconsin, Penn State, South Carolina, Syracuse, Villanova and Stetson. The WSCL defeated Fordham (3-0), American University (3-0), Mercer (2-1) before losing to Hofstra in the preliminary rounds. The team then advanced to the sweet sixteen defeating Drexel (2-1) to advance to the Elite Eight where it was lost to Northwestern (number 3 mock trial program in the U.S.).



Sean Kurdoglu won the "best overall" Award (out of the 128 competitors).



Mock trial team: Sean Kurdoglu, Sabrina Meng, Kelsy Fraser, and Canon Thomas

[pictured with faculty coach Professor Robert Molko (center)] at the invitational Buffalo/ Niagara criminal law mock trial competition.

ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENT

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.



**JAMES OTTO HEITING
TO SERVE AS BENCH-
BAR COALITION
SOUTHERN REGION
CO-CHAIR**

09/19/2018

James Otto Heiting (Class of 1975 | Hall of Fame | Dean's Counselor) just concluded service of two years as a Bench-Bar Coalition Executive Committee member-at-large for the Southern Region of California.

The Bench-Bar members also unanimously ratified the nominating committee's recommendation of Mr. Heiting to serve as the next Southern Region co-chair for a two year term.



**JUDGE ERICK LARSH
ELECTED ASSISTANT
PRESIDING JUDGE IN
AN UNCONTESTED
ELECTION TO THE**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF ORANGE.**

09/14/2018

First appointed to the bench in 2005 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Judge Larsh (Class of 1986) has served as Supervising Judge at the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana, the Justice Center in Westminster, and for the Domestic Violence Courts.

Prior to his appointment in 2005, Judge Larsh was an Orange County Superior Court Commissioner.

Humble-Brag Here!

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

eNewsletter Archives

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**STEVE BELL
VOLUNTEERS HIS
FREE TIME AS YOUTH
COURT JUDGE**

09/14/2018

Steve Bell (Class of 2015) is spending some of his free evenings as a volunteer judge in Youth Court, a restorative justice alternative to suspension, expulsion, and the juvenile justice system in San Bernardino. Youth Court incorporates the positive peer pressure of an interactive student jury to increase respondents' awareness of the impact their actions had on their community, their families, and themselves. Case dispositions are rehabilitative rather than punitive, with the goal of successful school reintegration. Steve is thrilled to be involved with this innovative program for at-risk young people, a more positive alternative to the school-to-prison pipeline.



**WESTERN STATE
ALUM HELPING TO
EMPOWER GIRLS AND
YOUNG WOMEN**

05/04/2018

Jessica Hubbard (Class of 2014), recently brought The Girls Inc. of Orange County 2018 Externship Program to Western State for an inside look into the Law School Experience.



LAW SCHOOL FRIENDS TALK ABOUT THEIR JOURNEY TOGETHER



Christopher Montes de Oca (Class of 2006 | Dean's Counselor) and Artin Yadegarian (Class of 2006) met over 15 years ago at Western State University College of Law in the summer of 2003. Chris had just flown back from living in Spain for over a year the Friday before classes began and Artin was pumped up to see what all the hype about law school was and eager to start a new chapter. The two of them came from very different cultures, yet bonded together immediately. Both did not have any family in the legal profession or any experience with the law. Both had no idea what to expect. They joke today that they were burnt out after the first week of classes.

Chris and Artin relied on each other to pass their classes especially Torts which they both exclusively practice now. Artin says that he taught Chris everything about the class 30 minutes before the final and that Chris got a higher score than him.

When Chris is asked about Torts he says that he remembers being in Torts class and the professor called on him and she said, "Mr. Montes de Oca, can you explain to the class what 'custom' is?" He responded, "What do you mean by custom?" And the professor's eyes opened really wide and she said, "Like the title of the chapter that you were supposed to read."

While Artin persevered to get good grades, excelled in his classes and found a law firm to work at, he was one of the shier students in school. He is always remembered by Chris and other classmates as being quiet and humble all the while working hard to understand the ins and outs of law school and the legal profession. Chris is similarly humble and hardworking, though not known for being shy. They saw early on that they had complementary strengths and each shared a strong work ethic and a genuine desire to help people.

They both studied their way through law school and now work together representing victims in personal injury cases. After experiencing their own hurdles in graduating law school, taking the bar and practicing law, they now excel in Torts with several multi-million dollar cases and a recent car accident verdict for over ten million, which has received a lot of recognition in the legal community and has been considered one of the top 5 interesting verdicts in 2017 for automobile negligence cases in all of the United States.

Earlier this year, Chris was awarded the Rising Star Award from Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA), the nation's largest plaintiff attorney organization. Chris tried a case last month that made national headlines as a case of first impression providing a significant benefit to the public and policy change against the Los Angeles County Coroner's office affecting over 10,000,000 residents.

Even though there are thousands of attorneys in California, they both say that the legal community feels very small. Chris and Artin run into their WSU classmates all the time, whether it be at court, as opposing counsel, gatherings or CLE conventions. They say that WSU has the largest alumni population of any law school in Orange County so this is especially true for those who practice in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas.

They are often times asked by their WSU classmates and other colleagues to consult on severe injury cases or are associated-in for trial purposes. While they both run their own private practices as solo practitioners, they choose to represent many clients together. They work well as a team and have had great success in their joint litigation endeavors. They look forward to giving back to WSU where their relationship started, mentor the current class, and assist their WSU classmates and colleagues in any way they can with their personal injury cases.

FACULTY ACCOLADES



**CHEYANNA JAFFKE
SWORN INTO
MONTANA STATE BAR
11/13/2018**

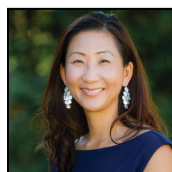
Professor Cheyanna Jaffke was sworn in to the Montana State Bar by the Honorable Julian Bailey. The swearing-in occurred in the Western State Moot Court Room on Monday, November 19. Professor Jaffke is now an attorney in Idaho, California and Montana.



**SABRINA RIVERA
AND JENNIFER KOH
SPEAK ON PANEL
AT WESTERN LAW
PROFESSORS OF
COLOR/CONFERENCE OF ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN LAW FACULTY CONFERENCE
11/13/2018**

On October 20, 2018, Professors Jennifer Koh and Sabrina Rivera spoke on a panel entitled, "Immigration Enforcement and the Rule of Law" at the Western Law Professors of Color/Conference of Asian Pacific American Law Faculty Conference at the UNLV Boyd School of Law. Prof. Rivera shared her insights on immigration enforcement gained as a result of visiting immigrant detainees as the Theo Lacy Jail

in Orange, CA as well as her experience representing an individual with a viable claim to U.S. citizenship who had been detained by federal immigration authorities at that facility. Prof. Koh shared her recent law review article, *When Shadow Removals Collide: Searching for Solutions to the Legal Black Holes Created by Expedited Removal and Reinstatement*, 96 Wash. U. L. Rev. 337 (2018), which examines the legal regimes governing expedited removal and reinstatement, and argues for the federal courts to use arbitrary and capricious review to invalidate the use of reinstatement based on prior expedited removal orders.

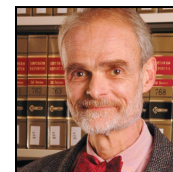


**JENNIFER KOH
PUBLISHES IN
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY LAW
REVIEW**

11/12/2018

Professor Jennifer Koh has published, *When Shadow Removals Collide: Searching for Solutions to the Legal Black Holes Created by Expedited Removal and Reinstatement*, 96 Wash. U. L. Rev. 337 (2018). The Article explores two of the most common forms of shadow removals (i.e., removals that bypass the

immigration courts), expedited removal and reinstatement of removal, and the collision of the two. The Article traces the operation of the two removal processes, both independently and in combination with each other. It emphasizes the harsh statutory bars on judicial and habeas review, and the resulting inability of the federal judiciary to ameliorate the harshness of removal in this context. The Article then suggests that the use of reinstatement based on prior expedited removal orders fails the basic administrative law requirement that federal agencies demonstrate reasoned decision-making and avoid arbitrary or capricious action. Relying on the Supreme Court's decision in *Judulang v. Holder*, which applied arbitrary and capricious review in the deportation context, the Article encourages courts to more closely scrutinize the use of reinstatement based on expedited removal. The article is available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3160259.



**KEVIN MOHR
APPOINTED TO
TASK FORCE ON
ACCESS THROUGH
INNOVATION OF**

**LEGAL SERVICES
11/05/2018**

Professor Kevin Mohr has been appointed to the State Bar of California's Task Force on Access Through Innovation of Legal Services. The Task Force is charged with identifying possible regulatory changes to enhance the delivery of, and access to, legal services through the use of technology, including artificial intelligence and the delivery of legal services online. Professor Mohr recently completed work on a multi-year State Bar project as a consultant to and member of the Rules

Revision Commission, which resulted in the first comprehensive changes in nearly 30 years to California's Rules of Professional Conduct for lawyers. The work of the Access to Justice Task Force is scheduled to last until December 2019.



**JENNIFER KOH
INTERVIEWED ON
"ASK A LEADER"
RADIO SHOW ON
IMMIGRATION**

ENFORCEMENT AND THE CITY OF IRVINE
10/15/2018

On October 9, Professor Jennifer Koh was featured on the radio show, "Ask A Leader," aired on KUCI FM and hosted by Claudia Shambaugh. She spoke about Irvine Mayor Don Wagner's attempt to place discussion of the California Values Act (SB 54), a law that limits local and state law enforcement's involvement in federal immigration enforcement, on the agenda of the Irvine City Council. The show is available at: <http://askaleader.com/?p=1443>. Although the Irvine City Council meeting later that day was subsequently cancelled due to lack of a quorum, SB 54 was listed on its agenda for discussion at the time the show was aired.



**EUNICE PARK
PRESENTS ON
CULTURAL
COMPETENCE AT
WESTERN REGIONAL
LEGAL WRITING CONFERENCE**

10/02/2018

Professor Eunice Park presented on "Cultural Competence to Advance Diversity and Inclusion in Practice: Why, How, & Assessment," at the 2018 Western Regional Legal Writing Conference, held at UC Irvine School of Law, from September 28-29. Professor Park's presentation included discussion of appellate brief problems she drafted for Western State's 1L Moot Court Competition.



**JENNIFER KOH'S
SCHOLARSHIP
REVIEWED ON
JOTWELL (JOURNAL
OF THINGS WE LIKE**

(LOTS))

07/31/2018

Professor Jennifer Koh's two recent law review articles have been reviewed on JOTWELL (Journal of Things We Like (Lots)), a blog that "creat[es] a space where legal academics can go to identify, celebrate, and discuss the best new scholarship relevant to the law," according to its mission statement. In an essay entitled Extreme Expedition, Henry M. Jackson Professor of Law at the University of Washington School of Law Mary Fan states: "Jennifer Lee Koh's body of recent work is powerful and timely because it guides us through the realities of present immigration process, which defies expectations."

Professor Fan describes the articles as a "fascinating and macabre education on removal proceedings in the 'shadows of immigration court,' as she terms it, ... powerfully illuminat[ing] how the vast majority of people removed from the United States never make it into an immigration court." The essay concludes that "[Koh's] overview of the abbreviated approaches that sidestep an already notoriously underprotective process is important reading to understand the fast muddy slide into our present mire."

The two articles reviewed are When Shadow Removals Collide: Searching for Solutions to the Legal Black Holes Created by Expedited Removal and Reinstatement, __ Wash. U. L. Rev. __ (forthcoming 2018), available at SSRN; and Removal in the Shadows of Immigration Court, 90 S. Cal. L. Rev. 181 (2017).



**JENNIFER KOH
WRITES AMICUS
BRIEF FOR COALITION
OF OVER FORTY
LEGAL SERVICES**

**ORGANIZATIONS, PUBLIC DEFENDER'S
OFFICES, LAW SCHOOL CLINICS AND
OTHER ENTITIES ON VALIDITY OF
CERTAIN CALIFORNIA CONVICTIONS
UNDER FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW**

07/30/2018

On July 27, 2018, Professor Jennifer Koh filed an amicus brief that she wrote on behalf of a broad coalition of over forty legal services organizations, legal associations, law firms, public defender's offices and law school clinics that seek to advance the interests of noncitizens impacted by the immigration consequences of criminal convictions.

The brief was written in response to the Board of Immigration Appeals' request for amicus briefs addressing the validity of convictions vacated pursuant to California Penal Code section 1203.43 under the federal immigration laws. Professor Koh co-authored the brief with attorneys Katherine Brady, Rose Cahn, and Michael Mehr (all of whom were involved in the drafting of the legislation that led to the enactment of section 1203.43).



**LOS ANGELES TIMES
PUBLISHES OP-ED BY
JENNIFER KOH ON
DEPORTATIONS AND
DUE PROCESS**

07/02/2018

Professor Jennifer Koh has published an op-ed in the Los Angeles Times, which discusses the rise of deportations without court hearings. She co-authored with Professor Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia, law professor at Penn State Dickinson School of Law.

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