

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW
AT ARGOSY UNIVERSITY

2014 Hall of Fame Gala



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Your Alumni Newsletter

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Kudos to you!

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Please accept my best wishes for this season of Thanks. I hope that your circle of gratitude includes your professional community and the law school community where your first professional steps were taken. My own life continues to be greatly enriched by the students I teach, the alumni I encounter, and the faculty of which I am a part.

On November 13th, I had the great pleasure of attending an alumni gathering in San Francisco where I connected with many of our graduates in the Bay Area, including our special alumni guest, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón.

I was gratified to see what a positive impact Mr. Gascón has had on the city and its people. I was also impressed by the successes of our other guests in a diversity of law firms, industries, government agencies, and charitable organizations. It is clear to me that vital and vibrant communities of Western State alumni are emerging throughout the country, and it will be among our tasks during our post fiftieth anniversary phase to reach out to these far flung centers of alumni engagement to recognize their collective accomplishments and bring to them the good news of our successes at Western State.

The previous month we held our annual Hall of Fame Gala Dinner at the Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach. The event raised a substantial amount of scholarship dollars, showcasing a level of donor commitment that I think any law school dean would envy. We also had the privilege of honoring four alumni who would be the pride of any law school: The honorable Sherrill Ellsworth, a reform-minded judge; Gregory Bentley, an activist trial lawyer; Eleanor Stegmeier, a doyen of the family law bar; and Jeff Witjas, a celebrated motion picture and television talent agent. These careers were the products of extraordinary character and in some not insignificant way, the felicitous influence of the faculty and their own circle of student peers at Western State.

The event in Newport Beach and the one in San Francisco were certainly celebrations of alumni achievement, but they might just as accurately be described as celebrations of alumni generosity and engagement. When you think of those closest to you this holiday season, think of the circle that originated in your law school years, and the place where you first came together, and what it has meant and continues to mean to you.



Allen K. Easley
Interim Dean and Vice-Chancellor
Western State College of Law

2014 HALL OF FAME GALA

WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW



On Saturday, September 27, alumni and friends of Western State gathered at the Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach to honor Gregory L. Bentley, The Honorable Sherrill A. Ellsworth, Eleanor Ann Stegmeier, and Jeff Witjas. The four were inducted into the Western State Hall of Fame, joining the dozens of Hall of Famers in attendance, each honored for their lifelong contributions toward the betterment of their communities and excellence in their professions.

The Gala featured casino gaming and live and silent auctions, which along with generous sponsorships, raised substantial funds for student scholarships, and provided ample evidence to the students in attendance of the alumni commitment to their futures. When giving really mattered, the alumni in attendance, as well as their guests, did not hesitate to meet the challenge.



Hall of Fame Members in Attendance

Hon. Margaret Anderson <i>Class of 1977</i>	Hon. Richard Fields <i>Class of 1983</i>	Patricia Lee-Gulley <i>Class of 1988</i>	Michelle A. Reinglass <i>Class of 1978</i>	Jeffrey Witjas <i>Class of 1979</i>
Gregory L. Bentley <i>Class of 1990</i>	Jack Golden <i>Class of 1979</i>	Hon. Michael Libutti <i>Class of 1987</i>	Solange E. Ritchie <i>Class of 1994</i>	Nancy E. Zeltzer <i>Class of 1977</i>
Gary Chambers <i>Class of 1978</i>	James Otto Heiting <i>Class of 1975</i>	Joseph Moderow <i>Class of 1975</i>	Douglas W. Schroeder <i>Class of 1988</i>	
Lucetta Dunn <i>Class of 1981</i>	Jean Hobart <i>Class of 1977</i>	John Montevideo <i>Class of 1978</i>	William D. Shapiro <i>Class of 1978</i>	
Hon. Sherrill A. Ellsworth <i>Class of 1987</i>	Yoshiaki Kubota <i>Class of 1994</i>	Rose Pothier <i>Class of 1977</i>	Eleanor A. Stegmeier <i>Class of 1977</i>	



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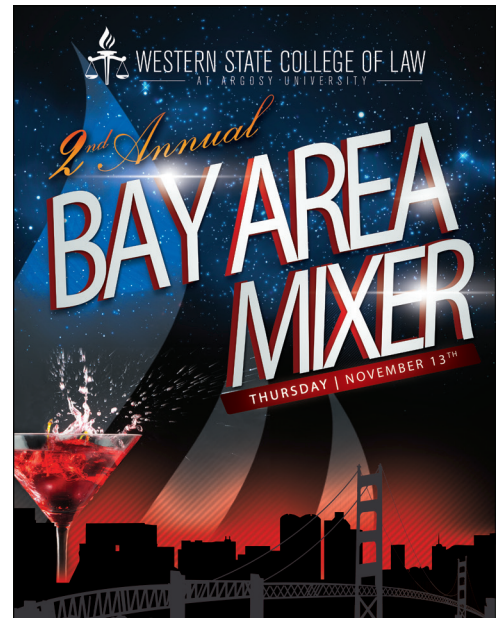
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ALUMNI NETWORK BUILDING ON SUCCESS

Western State held its Second Annual Bay Area Mixer on November 13th at the Waterfront Restaurant on the Embarcadero in San Francisco. Interim Dean Allen Easley, in remarks to those present, noted the warm reception from the assembled alumni and the diverse array of Western State talent in attendance.

San Francisco County District Attorney George Gascón (Western State Hall of Famer - Class of 1996) was the featured guest of the evening. Gascón, the city's first Latino District Attorney and former Chief of Police Chief of San Francisco, is serving his third year as the popular successor to Kamala Harris.

Other Western State graduates came from as far away as Marin County, the East Bay, and Monterey and Santa Clara Counties in the South. Alumni pedigres represented stretched from Seventies stalwarts Robert Reyff, Phil Green, Yolita Nowak Lecellier, and Bill Shapiro to recent graduates, and Bay Area transplants and returnees, Kristina Kim, Dorothy Mou and Jenny McMenemy.



BAY VIEW SPONSORS



“Why should I attend Western State?”

“What sets Western State apart from other law schools?”

In my role as a Western State Alumni Recruiter, I am so often asked these questions that I thought it would be helpful to share my response as to what makes Western State unique.

My answer to this question is always three fold:

First, our close-knit family environment:

- With a student body of 350, and a faculty-student ratio of 14/1, there is better opportunity to learn more in the classroom, including opportunity to ask questions during class to better understand the subject matter.
- Western State’s culture engenders a more supportive (read, “less cut-throat”) environment than most large law schools.
- Real accessibility/open door policy with professors. Even after I graduated, I had become so close to my professors that we immediately went on a first name basis relationship.



Second, the amount of preparation devoted to entering 1Ls

Western State has developed a program called S.T.E.L.L.A.R. that requires students to take a course called Introduction to Legal Methods. This course begins a week prior to the first day of classes – 5 days and then one day a week for the rest of the semester. This class just basically shows you how to be a law student. It goes over case reading, outlining, prewriting, final exam preparation, and even more.

Western State does not take the approach of, “throw you to the wolves and hope you can figure it out.” Our program is there to help the transition into law school go as smoothly as possible.

Finally, the third thing is the amount of preparation going into the Bar exam.

In addition to the required Bar tested subject courses, Western State offers two courses preparing you for the bar exam: Solving Legal Problems and Basic Bar Studies.

- Solving Legal Problems focuses on CA’s performance portion of the exam, which is 1/3 of your exam. As a result, during bar prep after graduation, this portion was the least of my worries.
- Basic Bar Studies was designed to complement and reinforce the Barbri Bar prep course materials. In this class, I completed over 20 essays that had previously been administered by the CA State Bar. Additionally, the course required me to create the outlines and tools I would need to study for the bar exam.

After graduation, I took the Bar-prep course. Finding myself so well prepared by Western State was such a relief! Several students (from other law schools) approached me to ask where did I find time to create these study tools! It was taking them 7 to 8 hours a day—but for me the work was already done. There were even some practice exams and assignments assigned to me by Barbri that I had already completed during Basic Bar Studies.

- This is part of the reason why Western State’s bar passage rate has averaged 76.5% for first time takers over the past 4 years, with the state average only being about 69%.

It is important to remember to ask schools, “What is your bar preparation like?” because having done this myself, I can tell you that offering bar tested courses is just not enough anymore.

**Sabrina C. Narain, Esq.,
Western State Class of 2014**

Western State Students Finish 2nd in Appellate Lawyers Association Moot Court Competition



Congratulations to our students Alex Shaaban, Kylie Starr and Lynet Shigg for earning *five* awards at the Appellate Lawyers Association (ALA) Moot Court Competition in Chicago this weekend! The results: 2nd place overall; 2nd place oralist (overall, Alex Shaaban), 1st place oralist (semis, Alex Shaaban), 2nd place oralist (semis, Kylie Starr), 1st place oralist (prelims, Alex Shaaban)! They were coached by faculty advisor Professor Robert Molko.

Western State Competes for First Time

On Saturday, 11/08/14, two four-member teams of Western State students competed in the American Bar Association's Eleventh Annual Trial Advocacy Competition in the old Federal Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles. Each of our mock trial teams conducted two complete three-hour trials against top teams from other California law schools. This was the first time that Western State has participated in the ABA's mock trial competition.



The two Mock Trial teams were coached by Professor Donald Daucher (far right) and was comprised of (from left to right) Steve Bell, Suzie Kersh, Vanessa James, Jeanette Garcia, Danielle Cappy, Aaron Munoz, Nick Maranesi and Ariel Armendariz.

ESLS PB&J Drive for Public Service Week



Entertainment and Sports Law Society kicked off public service week with our PB&J Drive on October 20, 2014. Our goal was to donate to 150 sandwiches to Mary's Kitchen in Orange, CA (serving Orange County's Homeless since 1984). Thanks to our dozen volunteers and generous donations from our executive board, faculty, staff, and students. We nearly doubled our goal and donated 286 PB&J sandwiches to Mary's Kitchen! They were so thankful. Thank you for being part of our successful public service week event.

- Winnie Jow

ESLS Mini-Marathon Kickoff Event

Wellness Week got off to an amazing start with the "Entertainment Sports Law Society Mini Marathon" on Monday, November 3, 2014. The brisk run around the block was a great reminder that exercise, proper nutrition and adequate rest are vital to maintaining a healthy mind, body and life. Thank you to all of our enthusiastic participants!

- Lynet Shigg





OCBA LEADERSHIP RECEPTION

www.OCBAR.org



On September 19, the OCBA hosted a Leadership Reception that included law student leaders and officers from all four ABA-approved law schools. Also invited were OCBA officers and members of the affiliate bars, including Casey Johnson, OCTLA President (pictured below). President-elect Ashleigh Aitken provided a warm welcome to the students and attorneys.

The event was well attended, and we were proud that Western State had the highest number of students who participated.

The original idea for this event came from student Winnie Jow, SBA Chairperson of Alumni Relations and Career Services and President of the Entertainment & Sports Law Society (ESLS). “Western State has an active entertainment law society due to the prior president’s focus on building relationships by involving the corresponding groups at other law schools. I wanted to further develop this niche area of law in Orange County and also bring Western State into a more prominent position within the community to provide more networking opportunities for our students.” Working together with Career Services, the idea expanded to include all of the student groups and provide the opportunity for leaders from all four schools to meet and share ideas and goals. The next step was to involve the OCBA who graciously hosted the event at their headquarters in Newport Beach. “Our intent was to start a tradition and to encourage student leaders to from all of the law schools to work together, pool resources, and promote networking and good will,” says Winnie.



ALUMNI KUDOS



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.



Craig Arthur (Class of 1988) has been appointed Judge to the Orange County Superior Court by Governor Brown. He previously served as Commissioner to the Superior Court.



Greg Bentley (Class of 1990), of Shernoff Bidart Echeverria Bentley, was recently named Consumer Attorney of the Year by the Consumer Attorneys of California for his work on *Solorio v Lincoln Composites* and the special hazards of natural gas vehicles.



Bonnie Castry (Class of 1992) was elected to the Governing Board of the Huntington Beach Unified High School District this November.



Richard Donahoo (Class of 1996) recently won a \$7.4 million verdict in Orange County Superior Court on behalf of his client who lost her daughter and suffered extensive injuries from a negligent driver and a poorly lit crosswalk.



Matthew Eschenberg (Class of 1991) has joined the Newport Beach office of Archer Norris as Special Counsel. He was previously with Prindle, Amaro, Goetz, Hillyard, Barnes & Reinholtz.



Mari Frank (class of 1985) is a leading expert on identity theft. Her article, “Visual Hacking: A Threat to Confidentiality,” was published in the October 1 issue of the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*.



Judge Maria D. Hernandez (Class of 1991), Presiding Judge of the Orange County Juvenile Court, has been named to the Distinguished Fellows Program of the UCI Center for Psychology and the Law.






Pamela Liosi (Class of 1994) has joined The Traut Firm as Of Counsel.



Nancy Padberg (Class of 1991) was re-elected to the Governing Board of the South Orange County Community College District this past November. She now sits as the Board’s Vice-President.

IN MEMORIAM

 Barbara Irving McCallum Class of 1977		 George Sydoriak Class of 1974
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FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Professor Myanna Dellinger moderated a panel on International Economic Law at the 2014 Biennial Meeting of the American Society of **International Law**.

Professor Dellinger's prediction that the United States and China would reach an agreement on climate disruption materialized **last week**.

Professor Dellinger's publication on public participation in government decision-making and enforcement, "Ten Years of the Aarhus Convention: How Procedural Democracy is Paving the Way for Substantive Change in National and International Environmental Law," has been cited in two different publications **around the world**.

Professor Dellinger, who researches and writes on issues of national and international environmental law and the democratic development of the rule of law as well as contracts law, taught International Environmental Law for the China University of Political Science and Law during the **summer of 2014**.



Professor Cheyanna Jaffke has accepted an offer to publish her article, "Unionizing Collegiate Athletes: The Unintended Tax Consequences That Will Hurt Athletes More Than Unionizing Them Helps," with **Rutgers Law Record**.



Professor Elizabeth Jones's recent law review article, "The Ascending Role of Crime Victims in Plea-Bargaining and Beyond," has been published in the West Virginia Law Review. In this piece, Professor Jones examines the rights of crime victims to meaningfully participate in the prosecution of **their assailants**.



Professor Paula Manning has been installed as President of the Association of Academic Support Educators (AASE) **for 2014-15**.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



On October 10, 2014, Professors Paula Manning, Ryan Williams, Lori Roberts, Elizabeth Jones and Jennifer Koh delivered a presentation entitled, “Teaching in 2015: The Integration of Skills and Social Justice for Modern Lawyering,” at the Society of American Law Teachers **(SALT) Teaching Conference**.

Western State made a particularly strong showing at the SALT conference this year. Professor Neil Gotanda presented at the same conference on “Teaching Race to People of Color: Comparative Racialization and **Racial Genealogies**.”



Professor Robert Molko led a team of students to a very successful run in the Chicago Appellate Lawyers Association (ALA) Competition the weekend of **November 8th, 2014**.



On October 25, 2014 in Paso Robles, California, **Professor Kevin Mohr** participated with other leading ethics experts in a day-long legal ethics and technology seminar titled: “Building and Expanding a Twenty-First Century Law Practice: **Technology, the Cloud and Ethics**.”

Professor Mohr recently published an article titled “The Ethics of Outsourcing Legal Services” in the October issue of the BOTTOM LINE, the leading publication of the Law Practice Management and Technology Section (LPMT) of the **State Bar of California**.

Adjunct Professor John Ohashi has published his article, “Calling the Broker First – Tips From an Arbitrator,” in the Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association (PIABA) Bar Journal, 21 No. 2 PIABA B.J. 217 (2014), **available on Westlaw**.



Professors Eunice Park and Monica Todd presented at the Fourth Annual Western Regional Legal Writing Conference Program at Stanford Law School on **September 20th, 2014**.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Adjunct **Professor Neil Pedersen** has been honored this month by the California Employment Lawyers Association (CELA), which has placed him on the “Wall of Justice” at this year’s annual CELA Convention, held in San Diego.

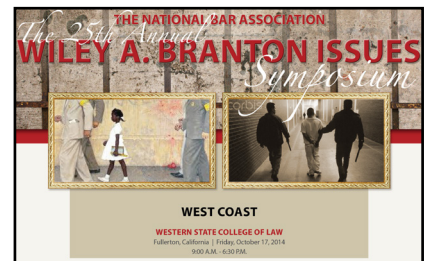
Adjunct Professor Neil Pedersen has published an article entitled “Let Technology Work For You, Not Against You” in the September-October edition of the State Bar of California Law Practice Management and Technology Section’s E-News.



On September 11, 2014, **Professor Tracie Porter** was the invited guest speaker for the La Verne College of Law’s Faculty Workshop Series.

Tracie Porter is a Moderator for an AALS Panel entitled, “Emerging Scholars in Commercial and Consumer Law,” sponsored by the Section on Commercial and Consumer Related Law, of which Professor Porter has been an active member since joining the legal academy in 2006.

Professor Tracie Porter was appointed National Chair of the National Bar Association’s Wiley A. Branton Symposiums, in charge of implementing four regional symposiums to be held at St. John’s Law School in Queens, New York, Southern University in Louisiana, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and Western State College of Law during the months of October and November 2014. The Symposium explored the issue of “education as the new civil right” and was given an acclaimed presentation at Western State on October 17th, 2014.



Beginning this fall, **Professor Charles Sheppard** will be serving as a member of the Law Students Veterans Coalition Steering Committee, led by Committee Chair Honorable Lon Hurwitz, Judge of the Superior Court for the County of Orange.



Adjunct **Professor William Shapiro**, who currently teaches Civil Trial Practice, was nominated “2014 Trial Lawyer of the Year” by the California Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates (Cal-ABOTA) and named “2014 Trial Lawyer of the Year” by the Consumer Attorneys of the Inland Empire.



WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW

AT ARGOSY UNIVERSITY

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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).

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

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