

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



The Holiday Season is many things to many people. For most of us, it seems a fitting time to evaluate where we've been and where we're going. We often hear charitable acts framed as "giving back." This year, Western State has certainly been the beneficiary of many alumni who gave back to their alma mater – both in the tangibles of donations towards scholarships and in the less tangible acts of stewardship that the school and its students depend on: The alumni who hired students, who guest lectured to a class, who assisted the school with its clinical activities, who provided advice and counsel when we needed it.

We are grateful for these gifts. They remind us of the generosity of our own unique educational culture, and of the ancient mandate that has wended its way through the DNA of the legal profession, conferring on its members a duty to provide for the well-being of the poor and the underserved.

Faculty, students and graduates also gave back to their communities this year. The students performed several hundred hours of volunteer work during a week of public service in November. They staffed clinics, donated blood, and coordinated disaster relief projects. And throughout the remainder of the year, they donated their time to legal services agencies, charities, bar associations and public agencies. There is hardly a local bar association that has not executed a major relief project this year. Attorneys have engaged in countless personal philanthropic projects. Western State Graduate Kimberly Valentine, who engaged her community to create more than 300 backpacks for Orange County's homeless is just one of a myriad of the year's private charitable endeavors. Professor Cheyanna Jaffke, who energized this campus community to create hundreds of gift boxes for impoverished children overseas, is another.

The end of 2012 presents us with an opportunity to reflect on the legal profession, which has so vigorously exhorted its members to be public citizens, and on the profession of legal education which has been blessed with students receptive to that message and eager to assume the responsibility of that mission.

I am grateful to be associated with this generous community of faculty, staff, students and alumni. Thank you for your generosity of spirit. Best wishes to you and your family throughout this holiday season and next year.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Professor Eunice Park

recently presented at the Legal Writing Institute's One-Day Workshop at The University of San Diego Law School. Professor Eunice Park's article, "Introducing Students to Free On-line Legal Research Resources: An Interactive Class," will be published in the Spring 2013 issue of *The Law Teacher*. Professor Park revamped the research instruction for the Legal Writing and Research Department in Fall 2010 to include free on-line sources, and the article highlights Western State College of Law at Argosy University's efforts as a leader in this evolving area. The *Law Teacher* is published twice a year by the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning, and it provides a forum for ideas for improving teaching and learning in law schools and informs law teachers of the activities of the Institute.

WESTERN STATE College of Law

Judge Firmat Swears In Bar Candidates at the Old Orange County Courthouse



Judge Francisco Firmat of the Superior Court of Orange County administered the attorney's oath to Western State's successful bar candidates on December 5th, 2012, at the historic Old Courthouse in Santa Ana. Judge Firmat, a Western State alumnus from the class of 1976, will be retiring from the bench next year, and his presence at Western State, both as a professor of trial practice and as the judge who has sworn-in hundreds of Western State graduates, has shaped the 2012 bar group -- and so many others that preceded them.

Before a capacity audience of over one hundred guests, Judge Firmat complimented the Bar Admittees on their hard work, and the good fortune that brought them to this moment. He also cautioned them on the law's seductions and cautioned them to lead balanced lives.

Western State's pass-rate for first-time takers was 79.4% -- another stellar performance; continuing our recent years' notably high Bar pass-rates for first-time takers.

July 2010	83%
February 2011	75%
July 2011	77%
February 2012	92%

Among those passing the July bar were:

Patrick Amaya	Stephanie Lauren Martinez
Michael Christopher Ashworth	Aidan Patrick McShane
Jessica Insun Cha	Gabriela Nieves
Janet Lozano Chowsangrat	Belema Debra Ogulu
John Benjamin Ekunes	Alicen Diane Pittman
Cambria Christine Henderson	Taylor Marie Prainito
Jenna Ann Henninger	Nicole D. Rice
Trinette T. Henry	Samantha Angela Schroeder
Haejung Lee	Steven Scott Shilling
Ju Kyung Lee	Samantha Michelle Swanson
David E. Lewis	Matthew Michael Thompson
David L. Lewis	Ursula Heidi Timmerman
Jill Tan Lin	Christina Marie Wickers
James Charles Lumsden	Brandon E. Woodward
Samuel Adam Mann	Jason Wu
Nicholas Anthony Martell	Kristen Michele Zierhut

(Some Bar candidates are not listed due to privacy requests.)

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



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

WESTERN STATE College of Law

Poe Appreciates Diversity Scholarship

December 13, 2012

Scholarship Foundation Committee,

I am both humbled and thrilled by your decision to award me the diversity scholarship in the amount of \$7,000. Your generous donation and investment in my future will be long remembered as I embark on a profession in law. As a single mother and a 17 year insurance industry veteran, just over one year ago I was displaced from my position due to a corporate acquisition. This scholarship offers me the opportunity to advance my education while building upon my experience which would not be possible without your generosity.

Please accept my gratitude and know that I will commit to serve the law profession with the utmost ethics and professionalism.

Sincerely,
Patricia Poe



To make a charitable donation toward Western State scholarships click [here](#):

A headshot of Tami McLaughlin, a woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a black blazer, smiling at the camera.

"Without the financial support of Western State many doors would have remained closed to me in my pursuit of becoming an attorney. I feel so lucky to be attending a law school that is invested in my academic success. I will always be grateful for the help I have received and hope that Western State continues to be a place where students are supported in their dreams!"
Tami McLaughlin '12

Western State administers students' scholarships through the Education Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation established to receive donations on behalf of the school and disburse those gifts as scholarships to worthy students at the College of Law.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Professor Glenn Koppel

has one of the featured roles, Mr. Laurence, in the Chance Theater's acclaimed holiday production of *Little Women*.



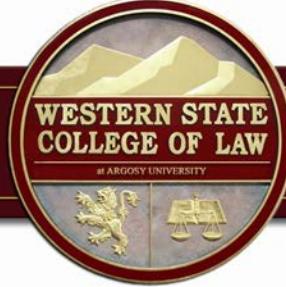
Professor Cheyanna Jaffke

recently completed her signature public service project – overseeing the preparation of gift-filled shoeboxes to children overseas. Her team of students prepared an astounding 325 gift shoeboxes.



Professor Stacey Sobel's

article "The Tsunami of Legal Uncertainty" appeared in the April, 2012 Edition of the *Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy* (Vol. 24:489)



Colleagues in Law

A Celebration of Alumni Achievement



Candice Mandanipour

Western State Class of 2008

Click here
for complete
interview:



What does being a Western State Alum mean to you?

Well, I interviewed with an Orange County firm, whose partner was a Western State alum. She saw that I was also a Western State alum and that I had participated in the Western State Legal Clinic. She hired me right out of law school. During my time with my first firm, I was involved in a large family law case, involving various business issues. Counsel for my client's corporation was a business/corporate litigation firm. While engaged in a 23 day trial with corporate counsel, I was offered an opportunity to work at the corporate firm, Enterprise Counsel Group. Now, in addition to family law, I practice business, corporate and employment law litigation. It all started with the education and opportunity afforded me by Western State.

Being a Western State Alum means being a part of a amazing group, including fantastic judges and great attorneys in Orange County that have come from Western State. I enjoy having the opportunity to share my experiences with Western State judges and attorneys in our legal community. I'm also still in touch with many of my law school alums we get together from time to time to share our mutual successes.

Of what success are you most proud?

While at my first associate position at Hughes & Sullivan, I received both the Rising Star Award and Outstanding Leadership Award. The Rising Star award was given to a newer associate, usually less than two years at the firm in recognition of their work product, work ethic, and client satisfaction. The executive committee, including the partners of the firm, gave me the award. My second year I was a managing attorney, supervising newer associates at the same firm, and the executive committee awarded me the Outstanding Leadership Award.

What is your first memory of Western State?

Before I even started law school, there was a meet and greet at a local law firm. We met current students, alumni and faculty—everyone from Western State was so friendly and supportive.

What is your favorite?

My favorite memory of my time at Western State is hanging out in the student lounge on the first floor. They had redecorated and painted the student lounge. It was a good place to study and interact with other students and friends. I even recall a time when a group of us spent days practicing our presentation for Professor Brower's Gender and Law class. I'm still very good friends with one of them, Ilina who is now doing human rights law in Bangladesh. We even collaborated on an issue of international Forum Non-conveniens—ha ha, Professor Koppel would be so proud!

ALUMNI KUDOS



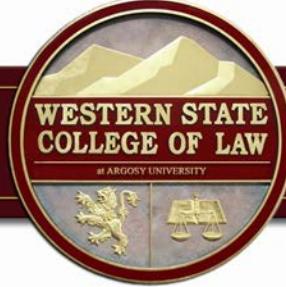
Attorney Debbie Cotton (Class of 1996) has been elected to Governing Board of the Ocean View School District.



Business owner and former Vanguard University Foundation President Craig Young (Class of 1988) has been elected to the City Council of Yorba Linda.



Jeffrey Thomas (Class of 1982) has been elected Director of Division 6 of the Orange County Municipal Water District. He has previously served as Mayor and City Councilperson of the City of Tustin..



Colleagues in Law

A Celebration of Alumni Achievement



Click here
for complete
interview:



Prof. Mark E. Edwards, Esq.

Western State Class of 1975



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

In the criminal system, it's a horrible waste of resources on victimless crimes and drug addiction. In the civil system, it's a lack of access to justice due to court closures as a result of budget constraints, fostered by the government's unaccountable expectations of the pension and benefits systems.

Unfortunately, everything in the practice of law is about money. That may be a cold statement, but it is true! That doesn't mean that it can't be about truth, justice and fairness; but without money, the engine of justice simply cannot run.

Of what success are you most proud?

I am most proud of the fact that I was able to succeed as a trial lawyer as well as a businessman in the practice of law. The business of practicing law can be extremely complicated, and even 'cut-throat,' but if you have a good head for business and managing money, you can do well as a lawyer. The problem is, once you stop, the money stops. So you need to plan for the future, as I did by putting aside money every year for retirement.

What do you like most about the practice of law?

Helping people—always, above any other reason—helping people. Even after almost 35 years of practice I'm still flattered when someone comes to me and asks me to help them solve a problem they can't solve. I adopted the philosophy early on that lawyers should be 'problem solvers' not 'problem makers.' I just wish more of today's lawyers would adopt that philosophy.

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

Well, I have had the opportunity to teach at different law schools. I am now a faculty adjunct at Western State. I find that the students at Western State are head and shoulders above what I expected, both academically and professionally. I'm proud of that.

What is your favorite memory of Western State as a student?

Gee, that's going to take a minute . . .

At the time, I just was busy working and studying. In hindsight, staying connected with many of my classmates like Jim Heiting and Henry Nelson. Many of the professional relationships I have today started with fellow students between 1971 and 1975 at Western State.

My next favorite memory is that I passed the Bar before I walked. It was the coolest thing since I finished in December of 1975; took the bar exam in February of 1976, found out I passed in May of 1976, and went through graduation in June 1976. It was a great feeling to know I had already passed while the others were just dreading the bar exam. I went right from graduation on Sunday to start my first job on Monday morning. So that was pretty cool.

ALUMNI KUDOS



Jan Flory (Class of 1986) has been elected to the City Council of Fullerton. She has previously served as mayor of the city.



Michael Lunas (Class of 1981), of Lakeport, California, has been elected Judge of the Lake County Superior Court.



Attorney William Landsiedel (Class of 1978) has been elected to the Governing Board of the Laguna Beach School District.

WESTERN STATE College of Law

Career Services Welcomes You



Western State's Career Services Department means business! With the new year right around the corner, we are anticipating amazing new opportunities for our students and alumni in 2013.

Our goal is to prepare Western State students for each job search they will undertake during their career, whether it is their first legal job or a mid-career transition. While each job search and career transition is unique, there are certain defined steps that can be implemented at every level: targeted research, developing a professional resume and cover letter, smart networking, and negotiating the offer. To achieve this goal, Career Services has implemented new ways in which we can better serve our students and alumni to ensure their success. Following is a sampling of what we've been up to:

Career counseling: Counseling is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis Monday through Thursday. We offer counseling on every and any job-related topic including resume development, cover letters, job research, networking, interview protocol, salary negotiation, assistance with internships and externships, military careers, and much more.

Career Services Library: We are pleased to announce that an updated collection of career-related books and resources will soon be available to students and alumni. Located on the ground floor of the Main Library, it will also house a dedicated desktop computer that has shortcuts to over 20 top job search websites, including access to Symplicity.

Workshops: We are launching our 2013 Workshop Series to provide students with an overview of the most common job search topics, complemented by related subjects such as listening skills, professional dress guidelines, dealing with bullies in the workplace, differences in gender communication, and more.

We are also proud to announce our upcoming Professional Etiquette series, starting January 24. Western State alumni and esteemed guest speakers will offer presentations on Raising the Bar on Professionalism, Networking in Action, Social Media, and an Introduction to Fine Wines.

Western State's best asset has always been our loyal alumni who consistently support, mentor and hire our students and graduates. If you need assistance filling open positions for law clerks, associate attorneys, or internships, please contact me. With Symplicity, our career resource website, we can immediately reach hundreds of current students and alumni to cast a broad net of potential candidates. Let us partner with you to continue the legacy of Western State alumni reaching out to help each other.

For contact Info:

[Click Here](#)

ALUMNI KUDOS



Renato Izquieta (Class of 1995) has been selected by the Orange County Superior Court to receive the 2012 Humanitarian of the Year Award for his contributions to the Homeless Outreach Court Program for the past two years. Izquieta is an attorney with the Legal Aid Society and an instructor at the University of California Extension, where he won the Distinguished Instructor Award in 2004.



Attorney Lucille Kring (Class of 1989) has been elected to the City Council of Anaheim, an office she previously held from 1998-2002 and 2006-2010.

WESTERN STATE College of Law

Western State Hosts D.A.C.A. Clinic

On November 10th, Western State was the site for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) clinic. The DACA clinic provided legal consultations by attorneys and trained student volunteers for members of the immigrant community eligible for temporary relief from deportation. The program grants a two-year permit, pursuant to the Obama Administration's recent immigration policy intended to benefit certain young people who came to the country as children and have attended or are currently enrolled in school. The policy, announced in June, grants immigrants here illegally work permits and temporary legal status if they can establish that they came to the United States before age 16, have lived here for at least five years, are in school or have graduated from high school and meet other requirements.



The clinic provided assistance to more than eighty individuals and was part of a collaboration by Orange County Dream Team and Western State, along with UCI School of Law, the Public Law Center, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, and the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California. The project fulfilled Professor Jennifer Koh's vision of Western State's Immigration Clinic as an activist, collaborative, community-centered clinic. Student volunteers included Chris Cabanilla, Chrissie Padilla-Le, Christine Kim, Rosie Pondeva, Vera Marshall, Iris Franco, Nanette Munoz, Edgar Cruz, Farid Kazemi, Raul Saldana, Kristalyn Bautista, along with Immigration Clinic staff Gabriela Nieves, Oscar Lee, and Jason Wu. Earlier this fall, Western State clinic alumni Jessica Cha and Lev Zartarian, and current students Marlen Manzo and Joseil Moreira, volunteered at OC Dream Team clinics throughout Orange County.

ALUMNI KUDOS



Mari Frank (Class of 1985) was recently honored by *Money Magazine* as one of *Money Magazine's Heroes for 2012*, for her work helping victims of fraud and identity theft.



Brad McGirr (Class of 1985) has been elected to the City Council of Rancho Santa Margarita. He is a shareholder at the firm of LaFollette, Johnson, DeHaas, Fesler & Ames.

Western State Alum, Linda Iannelli, Leads O.C. Women Lawyers



On December 5, 2012, Linda Iannelli (Western State class of 1992) was installed as the President of the Orange County Women Lawyers Association.

She happily supplied us with two photos. Linda explains, "The one with my car (1965 Nova Chevy I with a 350 small block!) is just a little of what I do. I do a good amount of charitable work at car shows which also helps market my business. Lots of fun!!"

At present, her practice is primarily fighting traffic tickets. Recently, a big part of her practice has been fighting against what she vigilantly labels, "Big Brother Red Light Photo Citations!" Last year she took approximately 186 cases to trial and only lost 3! Pretty good.

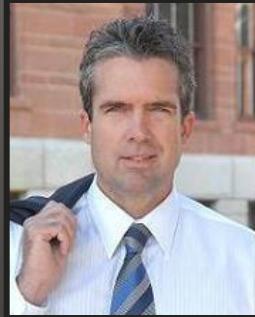
This year is Linda's 20th anniversary; she's been self-employed since December 1, 1993 (the date she was sworn in) and established Iannelli & Associates, APC in 2005. In the past, Linda has served as the President of the Newport Harbor Bar Association and the Newport Harbor Orchid Society. She is looking forward to leading the OCWLA through 2013, which she declares, "is going to be a Members' year. I want to get back to how we can benefit our members and help them prosper in their legal careers. We offer law students a free membership through their first year of practice."

OCWLA has approximately 222 members and a dynamic group of women serving on the Board. In 2010 the organization established the charitable giving branch of the OCWLA, the OCWLA Foundation, which will serve future generations of aspiring legal professionals.



Click here to visit the OCWL website: www.ocwla.org

ALUMNI KUDOS



Attorney Eric Traut (Class of 1989) was recently presented with the 2012 Distinguished Fellow Award by the Orange County Bar Foundation, an organization whose presidency he will assume in 2014. He is a former President of the Orange County Trial Lawyers and the Orange County Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.



Lucetta Dunn (Class of 1981), President and CEO of Orange County Business Council, has been named to the Appointments Committee of the Orange County Bar Association.

WESTERN STATE College of Law

Kim Valentine's "Helping Hands"

Kim Valentine (Class of 1997) has a lot of energy, and it is well-channeled. The Irvine-based elder law practitioner, a two time winner of the Orange County Trial Lawyers' Top Gun Award, has created and coordinates Operation Helping Hands which supplies the homeless of Orange, Los Angeles, and San Diego Counties with some of the basics of life that many of us take for granted. She and her volunteers assemble backpacks with apparel, blankets and hygiene items that they have collected from donors throughout Southern California. She has steadily grown the project from 50 bags of items when she started, to over 300 backpacks last spring; and expects to exceed 500 for the holiday effort. "We feel privileged and blessed to be able to keep this project growing," she said. "I know together we can make this season's project even more successful than the last."



Donations of fleece blankets, sweatshirts, socks, shampoo and hygiene kits, or checks made payable to 'OHH' will be accepted; contact kvalentine@valentinelawgroup.com.



ROBINSON CALCAGNIE ROBINSON SHAPIRO DAVIS, INC.

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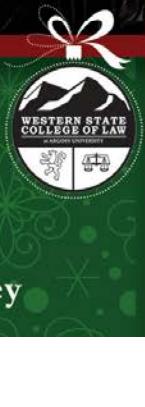
THE LAW OFFICES OF
Scott D. Hughes



Alumni Network Holiday Mixer

December 6th, 2012
at

The Jazz Kitchen
in Downtown Disney



Click here
for complete
interview:



Vincent D. Howard
Western State Class of 2003



How has the practice changed since you first started?

It's taking cases longer to resolve—longer for plaintiffs to wait for closure. All the Boards I sit on are dealing with this Budget/access to justice issue. What it comes down to is that the Judiciary is not being treated like an equal branch of the government. You actually hear a lot of rhetoric in support of this disturbing trend from who I call, "tort deformists."

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

You know what? I've always placed Western State in high regard in the legal community. I wanted to go to law school in the community where I was going to practice. I was convinced by the number of judicial officers. I always been pleased with my alma mater and with my professors—whom I still know. I've always been pleased, and I'm proud of it.

What does being a Western State Alum mean to you?

Soon after graduating, in my time at the DA's office, I found out that Western State had given me what I needed to be better than some of the young Ivy League-trained lawyers there. The Military trained me in perseverance. But that first summer, I gained a lot of confidence in the education I'd received at Western State.

Honor Roll of Donors



The Western State community gratefully acknowledges the following individuals for their recent contributions to student scholarships:

Advocate

Bill and Sue Shapiro
(Class of 1978)

Douglas Schroeder
(Class of 1988)

Frank Darras
(Class of 1986)

Lisa and Bruce Hughes
(Class of 1975 & 1993)

Barrister

Chambers, Noronha, Kubota

Chris Day
(Class of 1985)

HG Litigation

Callahan & Blaine

Robinson Calcagnie Robinson
Shapiro Davis, Inc.

Manuel Garcia
(Class of 1990)

Jim Hayes
(Class of 1992)

Kevin Calcagnie
(Class of 1982)

Gregory Bentley

Callahan Thompson Sherman &
Caudill, LLP

Kim Valentine
(Class of 1997)

Vincent Howard
(Class of 2003)

Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Solicitor

Enrique Arevalo
(Class of 1979)

Steven Bergh
(Class of 1983)
- In Honor of
Jennifer Bergh
(Class of 2014)

Joyce Bloom
(Class of 1980)

Karen Casey
(Class of 1994)

Karen M. Knab
(Board of Trustees)

John Englund
(Class of 1976)

Jeffrey McConnell
(Class of 1986)

Cynthia Gibson
(Class of 1983)

James Harker
(Class of 1976)

Arthur Knuckey
(Class of 1974)

Pearl Mann
(Class of 1985)

William Nees
(Class of 1977)

Heidi Romeo
(Class of 1994)

Dr. Allan Sheridan
(Class of 1989)
- In Memory of
Bradley Sheridan
(Class of 1993)

Larry Thorp
(Class of 1984)

Sandra Wager
- In Memory of
Jay Wager
(Class of 1974)

Dabney Finch
(Class of 1993)

F. Travis Buchanan
(Class of 1997)

Lucy Dunn
(Class of 1981)

Jack Golden
(Class of 1979)

Michael Fisher
(Class of 1988)

Shelia Fell & Keith Meyer
(Class of 1979)

Rod Espinoza
(Class of 1984)

Jerry Gans
(Class of 1983)

Paige Baker
(Class of 1991)

Scott Hughes
(Class of 2007)

Judicate West

Michelle Reinglass
(Class of 1978)

Joel Thomas
(Class of 1996)

Carolyn Dillinger
(Class of 2003)

Charles Sheppard
Dean of Students

Bill Adams
Dean and Vice Chancellor

Andrew Struve
(Class of 1998)

Stephen Chavez
(Class of 1998)

Join your Alumni Network Group

by clicking here:



PLEASE CONTACT US
ALUMNI@WSULAW.EDU

To make a charitable donation toward Western State scholarships click here:



or call (714) 459-1139

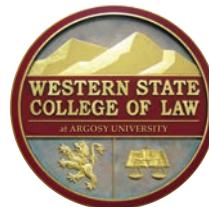
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To submit an alumni news item:

alumni@wsulaw.edu



WESTERN STATE College of Law



General disclaimer: Western State College of Law at Argosy University, (www.wsulaw.edu) was founded in 1966 and is the oldest law school in Orange County with more than 11,000 alumni. Programs, credential levels, technology and scheduling options vary by campus, and employment opportunities are not guaranteed. Financial aid is available to those who qualify. Administrative office: 1111 North State College Blvd., Fullerton, CA 92831-3014 ©2012 Western State College of Law.

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Argosy University is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, California, 94501, <http://www.wascsenior.org>).

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

The information and opinions expressed and/or any artwork displayed herein or in this publication represent the independent opinions and ideas of individual students attending school name and do not represent the opinions or ideas of school name.

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We hope you have enjoyed this issue of *Alumni Highlights*.

Your input is valuable to use, so if you have any comments, ideas, and suggestions, [please let us know](#).

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