

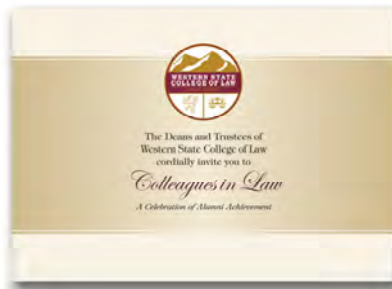
ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

I'm rarely happier than when an entering class starts at Western State. Last week, nearly 150 new 1Ls enlivened our halls, and I, along with my colleagues on the faculty, can hardly wait to engage them and start molding them into legal professionals of whom we can all be proud.

It is an exceptionally qualified group that, nevertheless, hews closely to the school's continuing tradition of diversity. I already see them as a perfect fit to the alumni community.



This coming September 13th, graduates from throughout the United States are joining us at Celebrations in Costa Mesa – site of last year's *Judges Night* – for *Colleagues in Law*, a *Celebration of Alumni Achievement*. This event will offer me an opportunity to share with you where the College of Law has gone and where I expect it to go.

The news I will have for the alumni at *Colleagues* is news I am proud to share: It includes continuing improvements in the school's bar pass rates; the advent of some gifted new faculty hires that will provocatively complement the current faculty; a new clinical program that is already exceeding our vision of what we had hoped it would be. And, of course, there is that entering class. Western State is continuing to fulfill its promise as an excellent regional law school. It is achieving that status through a confluence of hard won achievements, many in some way facilitated and reflected by the alumni.

I sincerely encourage your attendance at this event. And as you consider attending *Colleagues in Law*, I hope you think of it in the context of how many constituents are required to train new attorneys, and what a noble endeavor those constituents are engaged in. The alumni remain among the most important parts of an institution that has many moving parts. Your attendance at *Colleagues in Law*, or your contributions to sponsorships, support the student scholarships that will help ensure the success of the class that started last week as well as those that follow it.





The Deans and Trustees of
Western State College of Law
cordially invite you to

Colleagues in Law

A Celebration of Alumni Achievement

Join us as we celebrate and affirm our mutual connections
through Orange County's original law school

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Celebrations by Turnip Rose
1901 Newport Boulevard in Costa Mesa

6:00 p.m. | Hosted Cocktail Reception
7:00 p.m. | Dinner & Program
Complimentary Parking



Honoring 2012's Hall of Fame Inductees

Yoshiaki C. Kubota, Esq. | '94
Judge Michael R. Libutti | '87
Andrew H. Struve, Esq. | '98

A very special Thank You to our Host Committee

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Sharon Arkin
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Judge Richard Fields
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Fisher & Rich, Attorneys at Law
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George Gascón
Jack Golden

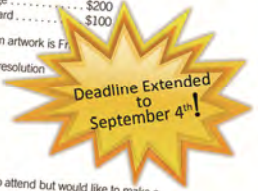
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Lisa Hughes & Bruce Hughes
Barbara E. McNamara, Esq. CFLS
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- Recognition from stage, on website, at Dinner,
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- Two tables of eight with distinguished seating/signage
- Special coverage in Western State's Alumni Newsletter
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and on all materials
- One table of eight with preferred seating/signage
- Full-page ad with preferred placement in Program
- VIP Reception
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- Recognition from stage, on website, at Hosted
Cocktail Reception, at Dinner, and on all materials
- Four tickets to the dinner
- VIP Reception

- TABLE SPONSOR: \$1,000**
- One table of eight
- One business card ad in program
- Recognition in Alumni Newsletter and on website
- WINE SPONSOR: \$2,000**
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- Recognition at event, in Alumni Newsletter,
and on website
- Two tickets to the dinner
- VIP Reception

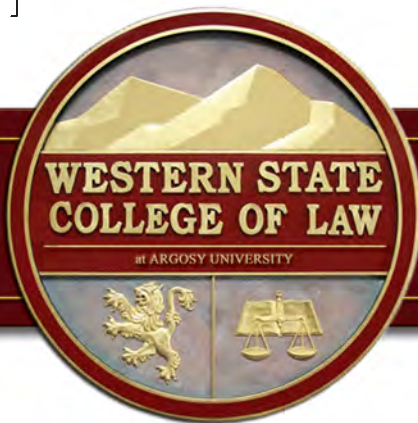
- PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENT: COLOR ADS**
- Full-page \$500
 - Half-page \$350
 - Quarter-page \$200
 - Business Card \$100

Deadline for program artwork is Fri.
Please submit high-resolution
electronic artwork to
tsaf@wsulaw.edu.



- SUPPORTER:**
- I am unable to attend but would like to make a
donation in the amount of \$ _____
- Recognition in Alumni Newsletter and
Western State College of Law website

To RSVP or for more
information contact
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Contact the Development Department
for more information:

Phone: 714.459.1261

Email: respinoza@wsulaw.edu

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



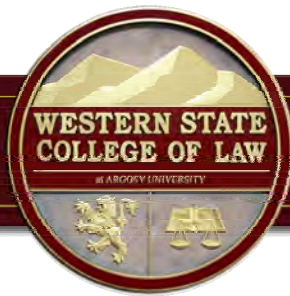
Professor David Groshoff's blogpost *Chick-fil-A: A Marriage of Corporations and Religion* was published in the August 8th edition of *the Huffpost*.



Professor Lori Roberts' article *Rhetoric, Reality & The Wrongful Abrogation of the Collateral Source Rule in Personal Injury Cases* was published in "The University of Texas Review of Litigation."



Professor Kevin E. Mohr presented "Ethics of Social Media for Lawyers" at the Orange County Bar Association's Last Dash and Trade Show on January 14, 2012.



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Honor Roll of Donors



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

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Cynthia Gibson (Class of 1983) F. Travis Buchanan (Class of 1997)

James Harker (Class of 1976) Lucy Dunn (Class of 1981)

Arthur Knuckey (Class of 1974) Jack Golden (Class of 1979)

Pearl Mann (Class of 1985) Michael Fisher (Class of 1988)



Professor Jennifer Lee Koh participated on a panel at the 2012 AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education on April 30th in Los Angeles on "Starting a New Clinic? Proposing and Developing In-House Clinics in a Changing Environment."

Professor Koh will moderate a debate on immigrants' rights featuring Tom Saenz of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) and Professor John Eastman of Chapman Law School, on September 20, 2012, as part of the Federal Bar Association's annual convention in San Diego.

Class NOTES



Chad Eberhardt (Class of 1999) is a certified Major League Baseball Player Agent. This past spring he negotiated one year contracts for both Brandon McCarthy of the Oakland Athletics and Michael Schwimer of the Philadelphia



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[Click here for complete interview:](#)



Bill Howard

Hall of Fame Induction Year: 1997
Western State Class of 1973

What is your first memory of Western State?

Coming to class, looking around, seeing hundreds of people in the classroom, and thinking, "I've got my hands full here." But there were great professors there: Jack Faust told me, "The cream rises to the top. Don't worry about all this competition. You have got to hand it to Dean Boas. He did a good thing: letting people go to law school who [otherwise] couldn't go to law school.

How has the practice changed since you first started?

Computers help— even in the beginning they did. I got a \$12,500 IBM word processor in 1975. It was a total joke. We used to have to go to court to get cases filed; now it's all paperless and online, so that's good. I like how they now have one judge for the whole case. That helps. There used to be different judges for different parts of one case.

[Click here for complete interview:](#)



Nancy Zeltzer

Hall of Fame Induction Year: 2009
Western State Class of 1976



How has the practice changed since you first started?

One thing is obvious: many many many more women. When I started in the olden days, I was in the minority. *Now* it's not unusual for the entire case to be staffed by women. Technology is by far the biggest change. Obviously, we don't have books anymore. I have people to help with the tech stuff. It lends itself to the court. **I remember when we used to "cut and paste" a brief, we would literally cut it and paste it.**



Greg Bentley (Class of 1990) of Shernoff Bidart Echeverria Bentley was co-counsel for the victims of a personal injury action where the jury awarded \$31.5 million to a couple who suffered debilitating injuries in a 2009 motorcycle accident near Lancaster.



David Stelzer (Class of 1996), Vice President/General Counsel of SouthPeak Interactive, Corp., taught Video Game Law during the 2012 Summer Session at Southwestern Law School. As the head of legal for a corporation that develops and publishes interactive entertainment software for all current hardware platforms, Stelzer deals with technology transactions involving interactive entertainment software, licensing of intellectual property, and all commercial transactions. In addition, he deals with all aspects of the video game industry, including licensing, distribution, intellectual property, commercial transactions, corporate governance and policy, insurance and claims management, employment law, labor relations, and human resources, and public company filings.



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Kevin Calcagnie

Hall of Fame Induction Year:

2011

Western State Class of 1982

[Click here for complete interview:](#)



What is your favorite memory of Western State?

Being Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review in 1982. The Law Review was running almost a year behind schedule at the time, but we managed to catch up by 6 months with a lot of hard work by the whole group. It was really like holding down a third job, since I was working about 60 hours a week as a law clerk and taking 3 classes per semester year-round. What surprised me about the experience was the teamwork and camaraderie involved. Up until that time I had not socialized much at WSU, but I made a lot of friends and they were really a great group of people to work with.



Christopher Day

Hall of Fame Induction Year: 2002

Western State Class of 1985

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

Accessibility to justice. Someone needs to remind our elected legislators that our government is formed by *three separate but equal branches*. The Judicial Branch is being treated like the red-headed step-child. They're trying to turn us into a fee-based, self-sufficient system and placing a Constitutional right squarely on the backs of the common man or woman to pay for *in addition* to their taxes. When I sit as a temporary Judge and have to tell 150 people a day that they have to pay \$275.00 on a \$35.00 fine just so they can have something the Constitution guarantees them, there's something drastically wrong.

[Click here for complete interview:](#)





Barry Besser (Class of 1977) developed a Conference of California Bar Associations resolution that was sponsored by the Orange County Bar Association, and became Assembly Bill 1727 which was signed into law on July 21st. It amends the Family Code to specifically permit support obligors to bring ex parte motions or orders to show cause to terminate an assignment order following the death of the supported spouse or child, or under other specified circumstances in which an ex parte application for relief is appropriate. This remedies a widely recognized anomaly in the law.



F. Travis Buchanan (Class of 1997) was recently recognized as one of the Top 15 Government Lawyers in the State of Nevada. He is also the current 2011-2012 Regional Director of Region IX of the National Bar Association. The National Bar Association is country's oldest and largest association of predominately African-American lawyers, judges, professors and law students, and includes a professional network of over 45,000 members. Region IX is one of the largest (6,750 members) and most geographically diverse of the 12 regions that compose the National Bar Association.



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Lucetta Dunn

Hall of Fame Induction Year: 2005
Western State Class of 1981

What is your first memory of Western State?

I can envision myself driving into the parking lot, walking in through the side door. My first class was Contracts. I remember the Student Union area, seeing all the new faces, being excited and terrified at the same time. I also remember distinctly sitting in Constitutional Law, and being utterly amazed and surprised that I received an "Am Jur" (American Jurisprudence) Award after exams for the highest score in the school that year. Who knew that Constitutional law would still be a big issue for me in my work as OCBC President some 40 years later?

Of what success are you most proud?

Raising two sons who make a mom proud, have productive jobs and contribute to society. One is a deputy sheriff in San Francisco. The other is a marketing executive, also in San Francisco. Jacqueline Kennedy once said, "If you bungle raising your children, then nothing else matters." I've really taken that to heart. It's hard being a working parent and raising children today, and I look back and wished I could have chosen more time with my boys when they were growing up. But they are doing well, thank goodness!

What do you like best about the practice of law?

I'm not practicing law now, although I maintain my active bar status. Having a J.D. has been extremely helpful in business—being able to see both sides of an issue helps find common ground for resolving otherwise contentious public policy issues. As Steven Covey would say, "Seek first to understand, then to be understood." In a society seemingly driven by polls and press headlines, learning to listen to each other, dialogue and come to consensus actually results in long-lasting solutions. Further, when I worked in real estate development, having a J.D. helped put me, as a woman, on parity with executives who had years of experience or MBAs. I've appreciated the respect that comes with my law degree and the years I served in private practice.



Mary Elliot (Class of 1987) was among the national honorees at the 33rd Annual YWCA Tribute to Women and Industry (TWIN) Awards Dinner Whippany, New Jersey. She is Senior Vice President, Worldwide Fidelity and Surety Claim Manager, Chubb Group of Insurance Companies.



Professor Ted Johnson (Class of 1972) of Brandeis University has been named to the Board of Directors of The New England chapter of the Association for Conflict Resolution. He was also a featured presenter in Global Citizenship and Conflict Management at *Global Citizenship in Practice: a UN Impact Conference* at Lehigh University on March 23rd.



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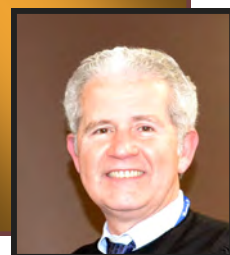
[Click here for complete interview:](#)



Jack Veth
Hall of Fame Induction Year: 2004
Western State Class of '85

Of what success are you most proud?

Since I practiced aviation litigation involving aircraft crashes, I would say: helping people at a time of great tragedy. When I met a client, they were usually at the lowest point in their lives having just lost a loved one or member of their family. In one case, when I met the client, he was in traction in Riverside General Hospital. He had been severely injured in an airplane crash in Perris, California. He had no medical insurance and was not receiving very good medical care. We were able to get the insurance company for the airport to cover the cost of a medical helicopter airlift to get him to Scripps Medical Facility in La Jolla, California, and to cover the cost of his medical care. And this was accomplished prior to filing any lawsuit because it was the right thing to do. It was of tremendous help to the client and his family. We are still friends today. He's a paraplegic, he is an instructor in ultra-light flying vehicles, drives his truck, and he snow-skis! When I think of how he was when I met him—and how he is today—it makes me smile.



Honorable Francisco Firmat
Hall of Fame Induction Year: 1990
Western State Class of 1976

What do you like best about being a judge?

Settlement conference work – the peace-making aspect – helping people to find closure. Most lawyers don't know that their clients didn't sleep well the night before the deposition, or court date. If they're at a 4th of July BBQ, they've got their mind on the case and the litigation bothering them, and they can't enjoy things. After many settlement conferences, I've learned how extraordinarily grateful people are when a case is settled early. I can save them time and money and heartache by helping them to terminate their dispute.

[Click here for complete interview:](#)





Mark Smith (Class of 1991), President and CEO of Molycorp was a featured speaker at the TREM (Technology & Rare Earth Metals) 12 Conference on March 14-16, at the Ritz Carlton in Washington, DC.

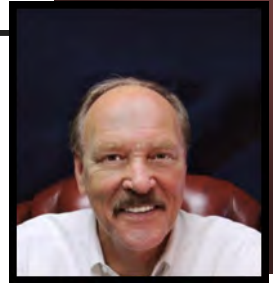


Riley C. Walter (Class of 1979) has been selected as one of the “Top 100” attorneys in Northern California for 2012. This is his second time he has been included in the prestigious “Top 100” list, and the ninth consecutive year he has been designated as a Northern California Super Lawyer. Walter is a shareholder in Walter & Wilhelm Law Group, headquartered in Fresno. He is a past president of the Federal Bar Association, past chair of the State Bar Agribusiness Committee, is a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and is certified as a business bankruptcy specialist by the American Board of Bankruptcy Certification. Walter has also been a representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference and is active in a number of civic organizations including the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at California State University, Fresno.



Colleagues in Law

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Bill Gray

Hall of Fame Induction Year: 1993
Western State Class of 1974

What do you like best about the practice of law?

It has given me the opportunity to help out a large number of people: corporations, insurance companies, and individuals. As a practicing attorney, you are, as person, uniquely capable of helping out a lot of people. It has placed me in the position on a number of occasions to help a number of people. At some point, you don't need any more money, titles or awards—your name printed somewhere or other. Then you need to be of maximum service to people who need it and who helped you on the way up. When you reach a certain level of success... — there's no one who doesn't know my firm. So you get to the point where the greatest thing you can do is use what the Lord gave you—talent—to help others.

[Click here for complete interview:](#)



Honorable Sheila Fell

Hall of Fame Induction Year: 2004
Western State Class of 1979

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

The Budget – no question. In fact, it kind of obliterates everything else. It's hard to get past the issue. No one knows where it's going, and everyone's fearful of what's going to happen. We are all doing the best we can with what where we are.

[Click here for complete](#)





Commissioner Marilyn Kading Martinez (Class of 1974) was profiled in the July 27th issue of the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*. Commissioner Martinez presides over dependency cases involving abused and neglected children at Edelman Children’s Court in Monterey Park.



Behrooz Shariati (Class of 1991) has joined the Silicon Valley firm of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice as a partner in the Intellectual Property Group. His practice emphasizes patent and copyright litigation with a focus on software, computer hardware, networking technologies and industry standards. He was formerly a partner in the Silicon Valley office of Jones Day.



Professor Glenn Koppel
Western State College of Law Professor since: 1982

You are a student of the theatre; what about the stage informs your teaching?

I am very acutely aware when I’m losing an audience; I hate that. So I have an uncanny ability to sense when a particular student is not paying attention. Students expect Civ Pro to be boring, so it’s especially important to show students my passion for the subject. If a scholar can’t communicate his or her knowledge, then that knowledge is lost on students. It’s our job as teachers to *spark interest* in students.

You know, *my teaching* actually *informs* my acting. Lawyers are always “on stage” in a variety of public settings. Like an actor, a lawyer needs to know his or her audience, whether addressing a trial judge, a jury, an appellate court, or opposing counsel in settlement negotiations. In fact, actors teach classes to trial lawyers on how to reach juries. I’m more at ease in front of a classroom *and* more at ease on the stage as a result of this “cross-training,” if you will.

All the world’s a stage. A stage is a stage is a stage.

[Click here for complete interview:](#)



Catch Professor Glenn Koppel in “Twelve Angry Men”

STAGES theatre, Fullerton, California, August 10th - September 16th, 2012 —

Professor Glenn Koppel, a familiar presence in Orange County theater, is featured in the Stages Theatre’s production of the classic legal drama *Twelve Angry Men*. Developed from Reginald Rose’s acclaimed 1954 teleplay from television’s ‘Golden Age,’ *Twelve Angry Men* has influenced countless films, plays and television productions whose drama is presented through the prism of a jury deliberation. *Twelve Angry Men* will run from August 10th through September 16th at Stages Theatre on Commonwealth, in Fullerton.



For more information click the director’s clapperboard:



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Western State is dedicated to providing students with the support, guidance, and training necessary to realize their potential. Western State offers both full- and part-time programs and throughout its 45 year history has been committed to the excellence of its teaching and to preparing students for the practice of law.

Western State's student body is diverse and reflects the law school's mission to serve the community. That diversity is also reflected in the dedicated and highly accessible, teaching-oriented faculty, who serve as scholars and mentors both inside and outside of the classroom.

Western State has been affiliated with Argosy University since 2001. In 2012 Western State became a college of Argosy University and 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.wascenior.org>). For more information 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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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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