

RIVERSIDE LAWYER

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MAGAZINE

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Advancing Affordability, Accessibility of a California Legal Education

Practice for the People:

The District Attorney's Summer Law Clerk Program

Volunteer Programs at the Public Defender's Office

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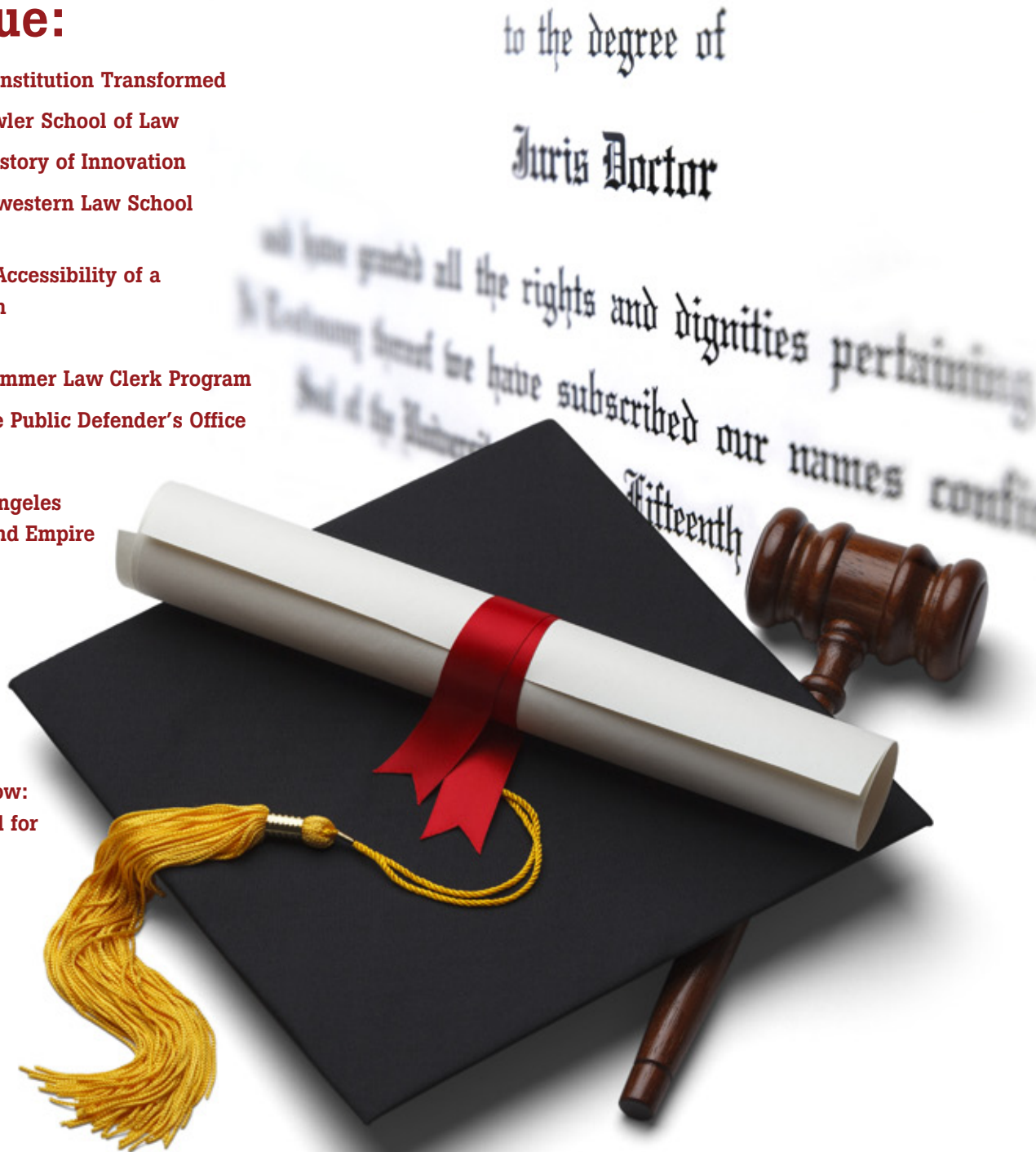
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Law School Benefits Us Throughout Life

Journey Through Law School

The Transition to Law Teaching

That was Then, This is Now: How Times Have Changed for Graduating Law Students



The official publication of the Riverside County Bar Association

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Editor Jacqueline Carey-Wilson
Copy Editor Yoginee Braslaw
Design and Production PIP Printing Riverside
Cover Design PIP Printing Riverside

Officers of the Bar Association

President

Jacqueline Carey-Wilson
(909) 387-4334
jcareywilson@cc.sbcounty.gov

President-Elect

Chad W. Firetag
(951) 955-6000
cwfiretag@co.riveride.ca.us

Vice President

Kira L. Klatchko
(760) 568-2611
kira.klatchko@bbklaw.com

Chief Financial Officer

Jean-Simon Serrano
(951) 682-6400
jserrano@heitingandirwin.com

Secretary

L. Alexandra Fong
(951) 955-6300
LaFong@co.riverside.ca.us

Past President

Christopher B. Harmon
(951) 787-6800
chrisbharmon@me.com

Directors-at-Large

Jack B. Clarke, Jr.
(951) 686-1450
jack.clarke@bbklaw.com

Neil D. Okazaki
(951) 826-5988
nokazaki@riversideca.gov

Diana Renteria
diana@drloffice.com

Jeffrey A. Van Wagenen, Jr.
(951) 955-5517
jvanwagenen@rivcoda.org

Executive Director

Charlene Nelson
(951) 682-1015
charlene@riversidecountybar.com

Officers of the Barristers Association

President

Kelly A. Moran
(951) 682-5550
kmoran@tclaw.net

Treasurer

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Vice President

Reina Canale

Members-at-Large

Christopher Marin
Scott H. Talkov

Secretary

Arlene M. Cordoba

Past President

Amanda E. Schneider

Riverside County Bar Association
4129 Main Street, Suite 100
Riverside, California 92501

Telephone
951-682-1015

Facsimile
951-682-0106

Internet
www.riversidecountybar.com

E-mail
rcba@riversidecountybar.com

RIVERSIDE LAWYER

MAGAZINE

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MISSION STATEMENT

Established in 1894

The Riverside County Bar Association, established in 1894 to foster social interaction between the bench and bar, is a professional organization that provides continuing education and offers an arena to resolve various problems that face the justice system and attorneys practicing in Riverside County.

RCBA Mission Statement

The mission of the Riverside County Bar Association is:
To serve our members, our communities, and our legal system.

Membership Benefits

Involvement in a variety of legal entities: Lawyer Referral Service (LRS), Public Service Law Corporation (PSLC), Fee Arbitration, Client Relations, Dispute Resolution Service (DRS), Barristers, Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court, Inland Empire Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, Mock Trial, State Bar Conference of Delegates, and Bridging the Gap.

Membership meetings monthly (except July and August) with keynote speakers, and participation in the many committees and sections.

Eleven issues of Riverside Lawyer published each year to update you on State Bar matters, ABA issues, local court rules, open forum for communication and timely business matters.

Social gatherings throughout the year: Installation of RCBA and Barristers Officers dinner, Annual Joint Barristers and Riverside Legal Secretaries dinner, Law Day activities, Good Citizenship Award ceremony for Riverside County high schools, and other special activities.

Continuing Legal Education brown bag lunches and section workshops. RCBA is a certified provider for MCLE programs.

MBNA Platinum Plus MasterCard, and optional insurance programs.

Discounted personal disability income and business overhead protection for the attorney and long-term care coverage for the attorney and his or her family.

Riverside Lawyer is published 11 times per year by the Riverside County Bar Association (RCBA) and is distributed to RCBA members, Riverside County judges and administrative officers of the court, community leaders and others interested in the advancement of law and justice. Advertising and announcements are due by the 6th day of the month preceding publications (e.g., October 6 for the November issue). Articles are due no later than 45 days preceding publication. All articles are subject to editing. RCBA members receive a subscription automatically. Annual subscriptions are \$25.00 and single copies are \$3.50.

Submission of articles and photographs to Riverside Lawyer will be deemed to be authorization and license by the author to publish the material in Riverside Lawyer.

The material printed in Riverside Lawyer does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the RCBA, the editorial staff, the Publication Committee, or other columnists. Legal issues are not discussed for the purpose of answering specific questions. Independent research of all issues is strongly encouraged.

CALENDAR

MAY

- 13 Landlord/Tenant Section Meeting**
Topic: "Bankruptcy Issues & the Effect on Unlawful Detainers"
Speaker: William Windham, Esq.
Napoli Italian Restaurant, Loma Linda – 6:00 p.m.
MCLE
- FBA-IE Chapter**
Fourteenth Annual Constitutional Law Forum
Speaker: Dean Erwin Chemerinsky
Hilton San Bernardino – noon - 1:30 p.m.
RSVP to: Jaime_Bourns@cacd.uscourts.gov
- 16 General Membership Meeting**
Topic: "Local and Bay-Delta Water Supply Issues: The Latest"
Speaker: Steven M. Anderson, Esq.
RCBA Gabbert Gallery – Noon
MCLE
- 21 Estate Planning, Probate & Elder Law Section**
Topic: "Facilitating the Appraisal Process in Probate Matters and Trusts"
Speakers: Landon Scott and Joan Campbell, Riverside Probate Referees
Lunch provided courtesy of Gresham Savage Nolan & Tilden
RCBA Gabbert Gallery – Noon
MCLE
- 28 Appellate Law Section Meeting**
This meeting will be a general/planning meeting, to share ideas about possible topics and speakers for 2014-2015.
RCBA Gabbert Gallery - Noon
- 29 CLE Event**
Civil Procedure Before Trial
Topic: "Responding to the Complaint, Including Attacking the Pleadings"
Speaker: Gregory Snarr, Esq.
Lunch will be provided, courtesy Esquire Deposition Solutions, to the first 30 people that RSVP by May 27.
RCBA Gabbert Gallery – Noon
MCLE
- 30 Adopt-a-School Reading Day**
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Fremont Elementary School, Riverside
Please email Charlene@riversidecountybar.com or call 951-682-1015 for more information.

JUNE

- 5 New Admittee Swearing In Ceremony**
Riverside Superior Court, Dept. 1, 10:00 a.m.
- 12 Dispute Resolution Service, Inc. presents "Negotiations with Difficult People & How to Get Past Impasse in Mediation"**
Speakers: Honorable Christopher Warner (Ret.) & Master Mediator Timothy Corcoran
5:45 PM to 9:00 PM – RCBA Gabbert Gallery
MCLE – 3 Hr General
Free to DRS Panel Members
(Non-DRS Member - \$75)
RSVP required by June 10.
Call 951-682-2132
or email drs@riversidecountybar.com





President's Message

by Jacqueline Carey-Wilson

The theme for the May issue is law schools in Southern California and their impact on the Inland Empire. I want to share a little of my story and Southwestern University School of Law, the law school where I was fortunate to attend.

In the spring of 1986, I was a junior at California State University, Fullerton and wanted to change the world. I was President of the Young Democrats, Treasurer of the Coalition Against Apartheid, and a member of Amnesty International and Beyond War. I was also employed as Volunteer Coordinator for Judge David O. Carter's campaign for Congress. During the day, I attended school and rallied the students to speak out against injustice in our community and internationally. At night and weekends I worked on Judge Carter's campaign. I wanted to end war, end nuclear proliferation, end apartheid in South Africa, and end Representative Robert Dornan's career in Congress.

During this time, Tom Metzger, a former grand dragon of the Klu Klux Klan, was filming a show called *Race and Reason* at Cal State Fullerton and syndicating the show nationally. Metzger was using student interns to help him with the broadcast. One of the interns informed a reporter for the *Daily Titan*, the student newspaper, and an article was published the same day about an anti-apartheid rally. The question for the rally organizers was why are we battling racism in South Africa when we have racism at our own door step? For the remainder of the semester, we focused on ridding our campus of Tom Metzger. I moderated the rallies and led the marches. We were on the local and national news. One of our last acts was a sit-in at the office of

Jewel Plumber Cobb, the president of the school. President Cobb met with us and we handed over petitions signed by hundreds of students. Shortly after this meeting with the president, it was announced that Tom Metzger would film his show at another location. No credit was given to the students, but we felt it was a victory that Metzger was not going to use our campus and student interns to film his hatred.

I felt invincible at this time. The whole world was in front of me. That invincibility was short lived. On June 3, Judge Carter lost the primary election, which meant he would not be challenging Representative Robert Dornan in the fall election. Then on June 6, about 6:00 in the evening, I was on my way to the movies to see *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. I was in the back seat, behind my sister, who was driving. When my sister started to go on the green light, our car was struck in the rear passenger door by someone running the red light. I took the full brunt of the impact. I do not recall the accident, but I was told that the other car was travelling about 40 miles an hour, my head struck the inside of our car twice, first on impact and then a second time after the car spun around and hit a pole on the other side of the street. I was wearing only a lap belt. I ended up with massive internal injuries, nine broken ribs, and a traumatic brain injury. I was transported to Whittier Presbyterian Hospital, which at the time had a trauma unit. The surgeons in the trauma unit saved my life. However, when I did not wake up after 72 hours, they started to call my condition "a coma." The coma lasted for 14 days. However, I do not remember anything for 21 days. My first memory was feeling very confused. I could not understand what everyone was talking about. It was like coming into a movie late—you missed the beginning,

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so the story does not make any sense. I vividly recall trying so hard to understand what people were saying. I recall looking down at my hands and seeing a beautiful set of polished nails. I had never grown nails before. When I was in the coma, my nails grew and my sisters polished my nails. That is when I finally could comprehend what my family tried to explain to me.

I was transferred to Saint Jude's Hospital in Fullerton. Saint Jude's had a head injury unit where I participated in physical, occupational, and speech therapy.

At Saint Jude's, I learned to walk and speak again. When I was discharged from Saint Jude's on August 6, the neuropsychologist met separately with my parents and advised them that I would probably never attend school again or graduate from college. Neither the doctor nor my parents told me that I had any limitations. When I asked the doctor about law school, the neuropsychologist only said that the brain takes five years to heal, so I should wait five years before going to law school. That was my goal—law school in fall of 1991. I slowly eased my way back into Cal State Fullerton and graduated in May of 1989.

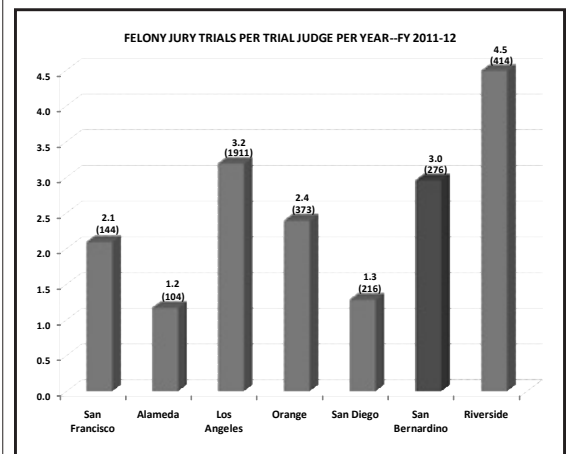
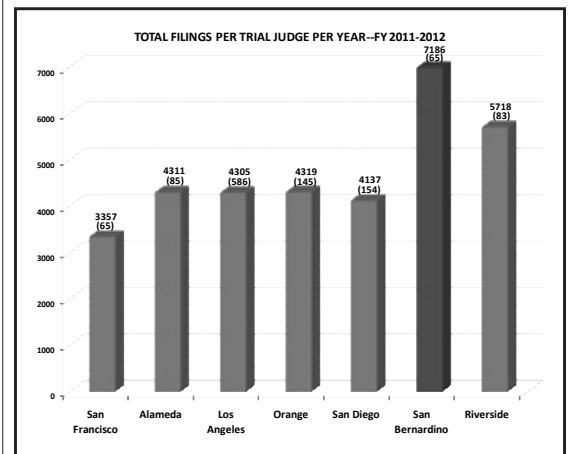
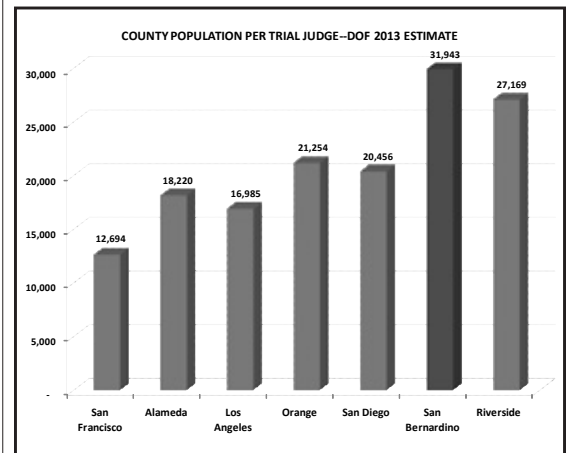
I worked for Congressman George E. Brown while I studied for the LSAT and prepared for law school. I was so pleased to be accepted at Southwestern University School of Law in the fall of 1991. This was the same law school that my dear uncle and godfather, Honorable James E. Pearce, graduated from in 1963. Law school proved to be a challenge. I continued to have difficulty writing with my right hand in the first semester, so I had to use my left hand to take notes and type my final exams. Prior to the start of the second semester, I purchased a laptop computer to take with me to class. At that time, I was one of the first in my class to use a laptop in the classroom. I was expecting my first child, Katie, the first semester of my second year. The administration worked with me to have classes to fit my new role as a parent. I will always be grateful for the support that the administration at Southwestern gave to me during that time.

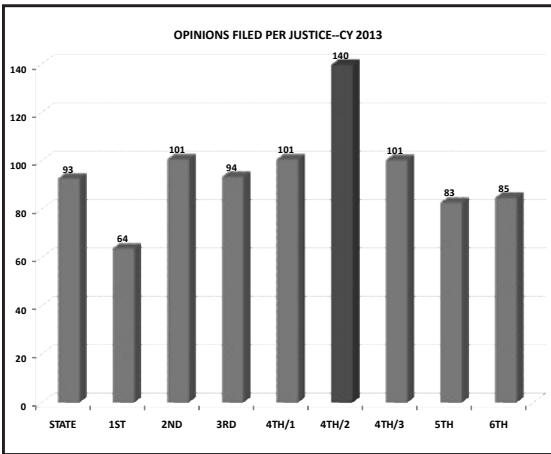
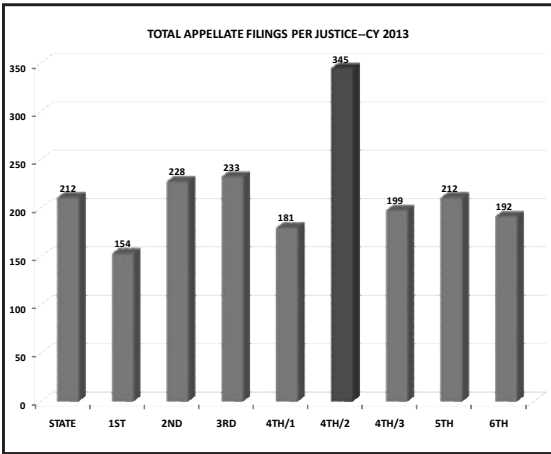
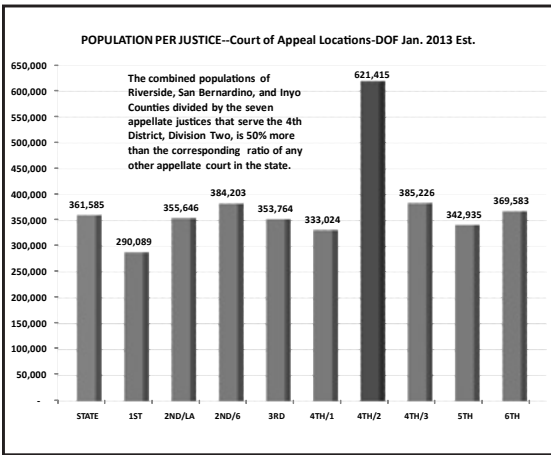
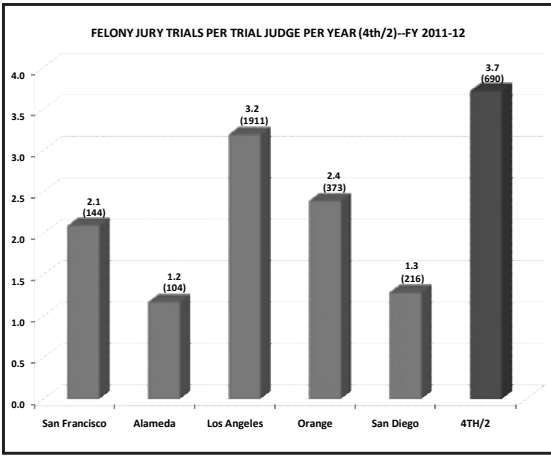
I am also grateful to be practicing in the Inland Empire. The legal community in both Riverside and San Bernardino counties is very cordial and respectful. As a deputy county counsel, one of my clients is the San Bernardino County Public Guardian. As a result, I spend many hours with the knowledgeable attorneys in the Probate Court. However, I work with other practitioners from both counties on issues that affect the attorneys and courts.

Last month, a delegation from the Inland Empire travelled to Sacramento to attend the budget hearings. The delegation included Honorable Mark Cope, Presiding Judge, Riverside County; Honorable Marsha Slough, Presiding Judge, San Bernardino County; Sharon Brunner, Vice President of the High Desert Bar; Michael Fermin, Assistant District Attorney, San Bernardino County; Chris Gardner, Assistant Public Defender, San Bernardino County; Barbara Ferguson, Legislative Liaison, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department; Kelly Bennett, City Council member and family law attorney in Murrieta; and myself. The Assembly Budget Subcommittee revised the agenda at the last minute and attempted to remove the general topic of the judicial branch budget and the public comment portion. However, on the eve of the hearing, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee added back the public comment portion. The Inland Empire delegation was given an opportunity to give public

comment, along with more than thirty attorneys, judges, court reporters, and clerks from courts all over the state. We repeated this the next day at the Senate Budget Subcommittee. The Inland Empire delegation was heard at the hearing. The delegation went up again to the Assembly Budget Subcommittee hearing on May 7, 2014 and at that time the Subcommittee authorized an additional 262.1 million to the judiciary budget.

At the RCBA's general membership meeting in April, Presiding Justice Manuel Ramirez





presented dramatic graphs depicting the disparate funding of the courts in this state. One graph showed the court filings per judge in 2011-2012 calendar year: Riverside—83 judges, 5718 court filings and San Bernardino—65 judges, 7186 court filings. This is compared to San Francisco—65 judges, 3357 filings; San Diego—154 judges, 4137 court filings; Orange—145 judges, 4319 court filings; Alameda—85 judges, 4311 court filings; and Los Angeles—586 judges, 4305 court filings. There is an authorized need for 156 judges in San Bernardino and currently there are only 65 judges. In Riverside, there is a current need for 138 judges and they only have 83 judges. The Court of Appeal, 4th District, Division 2, is also severely under resourced. This appellate court has 345 cases filed per justice. In the Court of Appeal, 4th District, Division 1, 181 cases are filed annually per justice and in Division 3 there are 199 cases filed per justice. There is a stark contrast between the judicial resources going to the Inland Empire compared to other counties (please see the other graphs published in this issue).

Senate Bill 1190 (SB 1190) passed the Senate Judiciary Committee by unanimous vote on Tuesday, April 22, 2014. SB 1190 will provide funding for 50 judges statewide, judges that were allocated in 2007 but never funded so those additional resources were never provided to the state courts. Once funded, the bill will provide nine additional judges each to the Riverside and San Bernardino Superior Court benches. The bill also increases the number of appellate court justices in the Fourth District (located in San Bernardino/Riverside) from seven to nine.

In addition, the bill would authorize an additional 50 judges statewide, dependent on future funding. The judges would be allocated to the various superior courts pursuant to uniform criteria approved by the Judicial Council, the governing body of the state courts, and based on current workload measures – a significantly important component of allocation.

I will again travel up to Sacramento to address the Assembly and Senate in support of SB 1190. I encourage you to also contact your representatives in Sacramento to support this important legislation.

Prior to my accident, I wanted to change the world. Today, I strive to make a difference in whatever small part of the world I find myself.

Jacqueline Carey-Wilson is a deputy county counsel with San Bernardino County, editor of the Riverside Lawyer, and past president of the Federal Bar Association, Inland Empire Chapter.



BARRISTERS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kelly A. Moran



Throughout my presidency, several of my articles for the *Riverside Lawyer* have focused on how amazing the response from the legal community has been when asked to speak at Barristers' events. Last month's event again featured an interesting member of the legal community who went out of his way to provide the Barristers with insight into his profession. Private investigator, Brett Bittner, offered a fascinating glimpse into the duties that a private investigator may be retained for

during the course of litigation. Mr. Bittner, of Claim Investigations and Support, explained the role of a private investigator in personal injury, family law, workers compensation, and criminal law cases. He regaled those in attendance with stories of game-changing investigations and provided cautionary lessons for those who wish to retain an investigator for use in their own cases.

Among the advice provided, Mr. Bittner recommended actually taking the time to meet your investigator before retaining him or her, as this individual will be seen as an extension of your firm. He suggested that several attorneys fail to take this extra step and are really doing themselves and their clients a disservice as they have retained someone without knowing what kind of witness he or she will make at the time of trial. Additionally, Mr. Bittner suggested taking the time to ensure that the private investigator's license is up to date, as any information obtained during a lapse in licensing will be deemed unlawfully obtained. Ultimately, Mr. Bittner provided the Barristers with an educational and entertaining evening. I would definitely recommend making the time to hear Mr. Bittner speak this summer as part of the RCBA's Civil Procedure Before Trial MCLE series.

Our upcoming May meeting, which will be held on May 15, 2014, promises to be one of our most exciting events yet. Planned and presented by Barristers' Secretary, Arlene Cordoba, of the Law Offices of Arlene Cordoba, the presentation will feature domestic violence speaker and survivor, Brenda Cubine. Ms. Cubine endured physical abuse at the hands of her husband for years. In 1983, she was ultimately convicted of second-degree murder for killing her husband and received a sentence of sixteen years to life.

In 1989, Ms. Cubine and other prisoners formed an inmate-initiated support group called Convicted Women Against Abuse (CWAA). This is the first group of its kind in the United States prison system, to help women inside prison break the silence about abuse and stop the cycle of violence. Attributable in part to the strong efforts of Ms. Cubine and the CWAA women, in 1992, Battered Women's Syndrome became legally defined to recognize the psychological condition that describes someone who has been the victim of consistent and/or severe domestic

violence. This defense became widely used in the cases of battered women who killed as it helped to explain to a jury the background that may have contributed to their crime.

The CWAA women's clemency movement created enough progress to see cases re-tried and convictions overturned. In October 2008, Brenda Cubine became the 20th CWAA member to be released from prison and now continues her advocacy efforts on behalf of domestic violence survivors beyond prison walls. Her story has been featured in the documentary *Sin by Silence*, has been discussed on air by programs such as *Fox News*, *CNN's HLN*, and *The Insider*, and has been documented in *People Magazine*. We are thrilled and honored that Ms. Cubine has agreed to speak at our May event and I invite all of you to attend what is sure to be a moving and informative presentation. As always, additional information concerning our May 15, 2014 event, and all future meetings, can be found on our website (www.riversidebarristers.org) or by adding us on Facebook ("Riverside County Barristers Association").

With our next Barristers Board election just around the corner, I would like to take a moment to encourage each of you to consider running for a Board position for the coming year. This is a wonderful organization that offers so much to young attorneys in the community. A position on the Board allows you the opportunity to shape the future of this organization and the presentations offered. If you are interested in being a part of the Board for the 2014-2015 year, please feel free to contact me.

Kelly Moran, the 2013-2014 President of Barristers, is an associate at Thompson & Colegate, where she practices in the areas of public agency representation, personal injury defense, and probate litigation.



WHITTIER LAW SCHOOL: AN INSTITUTION TRANSFORMED

by Judy De Vine

Whittier Law School has seen many changes throughout its 48-year history. Formerly known as the Beverly College of Law since its founding in 1966, the school merged with Whittier College in 1975. Whittier Law School then moved from Los Angeles to Orange County in 1997 to become the first ABA-accredited law school in Orange County. The Costa Mesa campus has long been known for the landmark fountains in front of the school. However, the past five years have been the most eventful in the school's history.

It began with the hiring of Penelope Bryan, who became the Dean of the Law School in 2009. Recognizing that legal education was changing, she led the charge to make major changes in order to meet the challenges of today's legal education market. Below are some of the transformative changes Whittier Law School has undergone in the past five years.

Students receive practical training. In 2012, the faculty approved a dramatically unique curriculum, and in 2013 it was launched. This curriculum, called Experience the Law, gives students more hands-on practical training to make them more valuable in the workplace. Many classes simulate the tasks that new attorneys will perform upon graduation. In fact, more than half of the required course units will integrate experiential learning. Students also gain real-world experience by working in one of Whittier Law School's four clinics and participating in externships.

The new curriculum emphasizing practical training has garnered Whittier Law School national acclaim. *National Jurist* magazine named the school #6 on a list of the 15 most innovative law schools in the nation. In addition, in an article in *preLaw Magazine* titled "25 Most Innovative Law School Ideas," Whittier Law's curriculum was listed as #7, and its Lawyering Skills Institute as #8.

New Courtroom brings law community to campus. In 2013, Whittier Law School opened the Kiesel Advocacy Center, a state-of-the-art courtroom located on campus. The 4,400-square-foot courtroom provides a sophisticated environment for students to practice for mock trial and appellate competitions. The spectacular space has also



Whittier Law School

been drawing the legal community to campus for practice trials and alternate dispute resolution proceedings. This allows students to watch seasoned attorneys engage in advocacy without leaving campus.

Whittier Law School ranked most diverse law school in California. In the newest *U.S. News and World Report* rankings, Whittier Law School ranks as the

most diverse law school in California, and is tied for third most diverse law school in the nation. In addition, it was named the Fifth Best Environment for Law Students by *Princeton Review*. This year, Whittier Law School has the highest diversity rate in 14 years, with an incoming class composed of 52% students of color. There are 10 student clubs on campus dedicated to all types of diversity.

"Diversity is at the heart of our school," says Penelope Bryan, Dean of Whittier Law School.

"We are committed to increasing diversity in the legal profession."

Focus on the environment. To help students enter the field of environmental law, in 2013 Whittier Law School introduced a new Environmental Law Concentration, and opened the Environmental Water Law Clinic. Orange County Coastkeeper, a well-known non-profit organization, joined with Whittier Law School to operate the clinic. Whittier Law students assist OC Coastkeeper in preparing for litigation, using the federal Clean Water Act against polluters affecting the water quality in the Inland Empire and Orange County.

Keeping up with alumni. In 2009, the school hired an Assistant Dean of Alumni Relations, and staffed up the Alumni Relations department to keep in better contact with the school's 5,000 alumni. Hundreds of attorneys throughout the Inland Empire have ties to Whittier Law School. Over 10 alumni work in the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, and others are found in the Public Defender's Office and the Superior Court of Riverside. A variety of law firms employ Whittier alumni, including Best, Best & Krieger and Diederich & Associates.

Bar passage improves. Whittier Law School made dramatic changes to the bar passage preparation beginning

in 2011. In 2012, the first-time bar passage rate increased 14 percentage points, to 70%. The school is launching new initiatives for 2014 designed to push the bar pass rate above 75%.

Students acquire prestigious fellowships. Whittier students are increasingly nabbing competitive fellowships that are open to select law schools throughout California. For example, Whittier Law School students recently landed two of the nine Employee Justice Fellowships awarded by CELA. In addition, three recent alumni are performing post-graduate fellowships at the Orange County District Attorney's office.

Success attracts students. Law schools nationally have suffered an 11% average drop in enrollment in 2013, and some California schools have seen a drop as much as 37% from last year. Whittier Law School has been building its reputation, and has only experienced a 2.6% drop in enrollment this year. "We have seen a lot of interest from prospective students so far in 2014," says Tom McColl, Associate Dean of Enrollment Management. "Word has gotten out about the innovative things we're doing here at Whittier Law School. People have noticed we're on an upward trajectory."

Judy De Vine is the Director of Communications and Marketing for Whittier Law School.



Opened last year, the new Kiesel Advocacy Center at Whittier Law School is a state-of-the-art courtroom which draws the legal community to our campus for practice trials and ADR. It includes a jury room which is wired for sound to hear jurors' discussions, and a judge's chambers.



CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY'S FOWLER SCHOOL OF LAW

by *Samantha Morgenstern*

Historic Endowment and Greater Emphasis on Skills Training Helps Chapman University's Fowler School of Law Produce Practice-Ready Lawyers

When real estate developer Dale E. Fowler and his wife Sarah Ann donated \$55 million to Orange County's Chapman University School of Law, the school received the second largest reported gift to a law school. Chapman University President James L. Doti announced at the Fall 2013 formal ribbon-cutting ceremony that the school would change its name to "The Dale E. Fowler School of Law." "I am proud that the Fowler name will forever be connected with our law school," Doti stated at the ceremony.

Dale E. Fowler is an Orange County native and Chapman University alumnus who began his career in industrial property development while still in college.

"My wife and I are overjoyed to have made this gift to the law school at Chapman," said Fowler. "As a Chapman alumnus, I'm honored to be able to have an impact on generations of students to come. We are enthusiastic about the law school's commitment to creating a positive atmosphere for business in all its realms of influence," Fowler said.

"With the infusion of this remarkable gift, the Dale E. Fowler School of Law reinforces its commitment to practical legal training, to hiring new professors from the top ranks of academics and practitioners across the country, and to helping make the cost of law school more affordable for its students," noted Fowler Law Dean Tom Campbell.

The gift will help support new and existing academic programs designed to provide an increased emphasis on practical experience. An example is Chapman's Mediation Clinic, one of seven existing clinical programs at the law school. The Mediation Clinic allows students to develop and use mediation skills through regular and frequent practice with actual clients under the supervision of faculty advisors and experienced mediators.

"The mediation clinic allowed me to apply concepts learned from the mediation class in a real life setting with actual parties. Not only was I able to perfect these skills, but I was also able to impact the lives of *pro per* clients in need of mediation," Fowler Law graduate Cody Bateman said.

Professor David Gibbs, former Practitioner in Residence and pioneer of the first Investor Advocacy Clinic at Boston's Suffolk University Law School, began teaching Practice Foundation Transactions at Fowler Law last fall. "I want to help students develop the tools that will enable them not only to be ready to practice but also to guide them over their careers," Gibbs said. "The faculty and deans had the

courage to take the initiative to improve what is already an outstanding curriculum," said Gibbs. "The plans for Chapman's Fowler School of Law are unique and incredibly exciting."

Consistent with the Fowler Law's practical skills mission, the school has added a number of companion skills labs that offer real practice projects in traditional doctrinal law subjects. This spring, Professor Susanna Ripken partnered with Rutan & Tucker partner Thomas J. Crane to establish a weekly practice lab for her Securities Regulations course. The lab provides assignments to help foster drafting and counseling skills required of securities attorneys. Similarly, R. Zebulon Law, a partner in the firm of Law & Lewis, taught a weekly lab to supplement the existing Wills & Trusts course; and, HongDao Nguyen, an associate at Best Best & Krieger, taught a companion lab connected with an existing Land Use course. The school plans to add two new labs in the Fall of 2014 to supplement courses in Employment Law and Immigration Law. It is anticipated that in the Fall of 2015, all incoming students will be required to fulfill a three-unit transactional skills requirement and that all first year students will be required to take a one-unit skills lab in conjunction with the existing required Civil Procedure course.

In addition to new skills labs and multiple clinical options, upper level Fowler students may choose from a range of practitioner-taught, skills-based courses such as Trial Practice with Orange County Superior Court Judge James Rogan and California Law & Motion Practice with David Finley, author of numerous motion treatises published by The Rutter Group.

Chapman University's Fowler Law students and graduates offer a smart choice for any lawyers seeking to hire new attorneys and clerks armed with real-practice skills. For information about interviewing a Fowler Law student or graduate, or to participate in the school's free resume review service, please contact the Career Service Office at 714-628-2626.

With the help of the generous gift and an evolving skill-based curriculum, the Chapman University Dale E. Fowler School of Law will continue on its path toward a cutting edge, competitive future.

Samantha Morgenstern currently attends the Chapman University Dale E. Fowler School of Law, where she focuses her studies in entertainment law. She will graduate in May 2014.



UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW: A HISTORY OF INNOVATION

by Thomas Oh

From its beginning in 1949, UCLA School of Law set a tone of innovation that would come to define its status as the youngest top tier law school in the nation. Without any traditions to break, the first several classes of law students, many of whom were returning war veterans with command experience, were not afraid to make suggestions to renowned faculty who were willing to hear their ideas about what a law school should be. With early faculty members like Roscoe Pound, Ken Karst, and Jesse Dukeminier, there was no question that UCLA would provide excellent teaching in traditional areas of law. What set UCLA apart early on was its innovative commitment to interdisciplinary studies and clinical programs.

This heritage of innovation is clearly evident today. In addition to its unique Law and Philosophy Program, UCLA now offers specializations in Business Law and Policy; Public Interest Law and Policy; Entertainment, Media, and Intellectual Property Law; and Critical Race Studies (CRS). UCLA's CRS program is the only one of its kind in the United States and is the premier institutional program for studying the intersection of race and the law. In 1970, UCLA also became one of the first law schools in the nation with a clinical program, establishing a new model for teaching that has set the standard for other clinical programs more than forty years later.

I am currently a third-year law student at UCLA, and I have benefitted tremendously from UCLA's interdisciplinary focus and clinical program. Last fall, I took advantage of UCLA's rich clinical offerings by participating in the Frank G. Wells Environmental Law Clinic. As a class, we worked with attorneys from multiple organizations involved in National Environmental Policy Act litigation related to a prominent development plan in Southern California. On a separate matter, a fellow student and I partnered with the Surfrider Foundation and travelled to Washington D.C. to present policy solutions for addressing marine plastic pollution at the federal level. We presented these solutions at a meeting organized by the U.S. Senate Oceans Caucus, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the United Nations Environment Program. We also had opportunities to follow up with Senate office visits to discuss the details of these proposed solutions. My professors seamlessly integrated scholarly articles, classroom discussions, legal research and writing, meetings with clients and policymakers, and role-playing exercises into a coherent clinical curriculum that has become

one of the highlights of my law school career. Add to this my experience as a full-time extern at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles last spring, and I can safely say that UCLA has provided me with the necessary skill set to join fellow UCLA alumni practicing law in Riverside.

UCLA School of Law has a number of notable alumni who have practiced in the Riverside area. Some of these alumni include notable Riverside Superior Court judges such as Elisabeth Sichel ('79), Craig Riemer ('80), and Raquel Marquez-Britsch ('91). More recent notable alumni working in Riverside include Julius Nam ('12), former Editor-in-Chief of the UCLA Law Review and current law clerk for Judge Virginia A. Phillips, United States District Court for the Central District of California, and Steve DeBaun ('87) and Haviva Shane ('03) of Best Best & Krieger LLP (BB&K).

Steven DeBaun ('87), a partner in BB&K's Special Districts practice group at its Riverside office, said that his UCLA education provided him a solid foundation for understanding complex legal concepts. In particular, his Administrative Law course gave him a good understanding of administrative rulemaking and the complex procedures that are required to ensure that the process respects the rights of all parties to a proceeding. "While I did not know what kind of law I wanted to practice while at UCLA, I think this course, more than any other, pushed me in the direction of public agency law," said DeBaun, who was also a member of the UCLA Law Review.

Shane ('03), Of Counsel at Best Best & Krieger's Riverside office, chose to attend UCLA for law school because of its stellar reputation as a Top-20 school, her family's tradition of graduating Bruins, and UCLA's beautiful campus. She also pointed to her UCLA Administrative Law and Environmental Law classes as being particularly useful for her current practice as a municipal attorney. "In those courses we engaged in statutory interpretation exercises which I still find useful today," Shane said.

As a longtime resident of the Inland Empire, I knew going into law school that I wanted to serve my community by practicing law close to home, which is why my top choice for law firms during on-campus interviews (OCI) was Best Best & Krieger. BB&K was the only OCI firm with offices located throughout the Inland Empire and one of the very few firms with specialties in public agency, municipal, and environmental law. So I was thrilled when I got the opportunity last year to work as a summer law

clerk at BB&K. As a law clerk, I thoroughly enjoyed the exposure I got with the firm's various practice groups. The work I did for BB&K attorneys piqued my interest in municipal and environmental law and heavily influenced the courses I have taken as a third-year law student. UCLA's course offerings were uniquely suited for these interests. In addition to the clinic last fall, my courses this semester in Land Use Regulation and Administrative Law have deepened my appreciation for the dynamic and impactful nature of the work that BB&K attorneys do for Riverside and surrounding communities. And I cannot wait to join them as a UCLA graduate and member of the bar.

Thomas Oh is a third-year law student at UCLA School of Law. Before law school, he graduated from Biola University with a M.A. in Philosophy, highest honors, and lived in Tajikistan teaching English for one year. He will be starting with Best Best & Krieger LLP in December 2014.



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THE INLAND EMPIRE—SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL CONNECTION

by Erin Auerbach

While Anastasia Sagorsky was a student at Southwestern Law School, she worked as a summer law clerk in the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, where she assisted in felony prelims, misdemeanors, and domestic violence cases. She also won the Riverside D.A. Office's annual Closing Argument Competition for all 2L law clerks, after competing in preliminary rounds before panels of deputy district attorneys, and the final round judged by District Attorney Paul E. Zellerbach, Judge L. Jackson Lucky, and assistant district attorneys.

"It was great to win," she said at the time. "I could not have done this without the experience that I had through Southwestern's Trial Advocacy Honors Program [where she served as board Chair], which really made it possible for me to go in there with confidence and talk to the judges." She graduated from Southwestern in 2013.

Now a licensed attorney, Sagorsky is back at the Riverside County D.A.'s Office, this time as a prosecutor. She is one of many Southwestern alumni thriving in their legal careers in the Inland Empire. Southwestern has had a long history of graduates working in public service in the Inland Empire. Currently, there are approximately 20 alumni working in Riverside and San Bernardino counties' D.A.s' offices. At least 10 judges in the Inland Empire are Southwestern graduates. Several members of the public defender's offices and county counsel are Southwestern graduates as well.

While he was a student in Southwestern's accelerated 2-year SCALE program, the Honorable L. Jackson Lucky ('94) had professors who encouraged him to think quickly and critically. Because his education focused on practical skills combined with interdisciplinary approaches to problems, he felt very prepared for the legal profession. "In SCALE, nothing was simply a tort problem or a contracts problem," Judge Lucky said. "Every class drove home that a human problem could involve many legal areas." He went on to serve as a Deputy District Attorney for Riverside County before being appointed to the Riverside County Superior Court by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2008.

But Judge Lucky's Southwestern experience was more than just academically enriching. "What I enjoyed the most about it was my classmates," he said. "I met my wife [Riverside County Supervising Deputy District Attorney Deborah Lucky ('94)] in SCALE, and we have been almost inseparable for 20 years. We often talk about the many professors and classmates who loved talking about the law, what it meant, and what it should be."

Jacqueline Carey-Wilson ('95) is Deputy County Counsel, Department of Aging and Adult Services, and Public Guardian for San Bernardino County. She has spent her legal career, both in public service (she has also worked as a public defend-



Southwestern Law School

er in Riverside) and private practice, throughout the Inland Empire. She is President of the Riverside County Bar Association, and enjoyed working closely with fellow Southwestern alumni, friend and past RCBA president, the late Aurora Hughes-Gonzalez (who passed away in 2011 and has a Riverside County Bar Award named in her honor).

"Being a lawyer is not always about having the answer, but knowing where to find the answer. I think that's the most important skill that Southwestern gave to me," Carey-Wilson said, adding, "What I appreciated most about Southwestern was the support. I was pregnant

when I was in law school and had a baby during the first semester of my second year. The support I received from the administration was great. They really worked with me, and I'm forever grateful for Southwestern."

Founded in 1911, Southwestern Law School is the only ABA-approved law school to offer four J.D. courses of study that differ in scheduling and instructional approach, including traditional full- and part-time programs as well as SCALE, the longest running two-year J.D. program in the country. The law school is home to the Biederman Entertainment and Media Law Institute, and is recognized as one of the top ten entertainment law schools in the country. Southwestern students can supplement their J.D. curriculum with a concurrent J.D./M.B.A. through the Drucker Graduate School of Management of Claremont Graduate University, or a certificate in Public Policy from Pardee RAND Graduate School or in Bioscience Industry Law and Practice at Claremont's Keck Graduate Institute. Southwestern also offers L.L.M. programs in entertainment and media law and general studies. Combined 3+3 B.A./J.D. programs are offered in cooperation with California State University, Dominguez Hills and Northridge.

The campus is located in the center of Los Angeles and includes the nationally renowned art deco Bullocks Wilshire landmark. With a reputation for graduating lawyers who are well-rounded, entrepreneurial and prepared for practice, Southwestern has long been known for producing prominent elected officials and other civic leaders throughout Southern California and beyond -- from members of Congress to mayors, and over 400 judges -- as well as founders of major law firms and general counsel of multinational corporations. One of the most diverse law schools in the country, Southwestern has a 100+ year legacy of producing many trailblazers in public service and the judiciary.

Erin Auerbach is Senior Writer and Media Relations Manager, Public Affairs, at Southwestern Law School.



ADVANCING AFFORDABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY OF A CALIFORNIA LEGAL EDUCATION

by Gilbert Holmes

A late-January 2014 report published by the American Bar Association Task Force on the Future of Legal Education found that “the current system of pricing and funding in legal education demands serious re-engineering.”

Even the most cursory look at the legal education landscape will show that costs have skyrocketed over the last decade, and that student debt is the highest it’s ever been. Meanwhile, the wealth gap between scholarship and full-tuition law school students is ever widening.

These escalating costs and concerns have prompted some law schools across the country to announce tuition reductions or tuition freezes for the 2014-2015 academic year. And here in the Inland Empire, one modest school is addressing affordability of an ABA accredited legal education while setting a modern precedent for truer access.

Increasingly dissatisfied with the predominant, high-tuition/ high-discount legal education game, the University of La Verne College of Law is pioneering a flat, fixed, no-discount “True Tuition Model.” In effect for the 2014-2015 academic year, the scholarship-free structure sets full-time tuition at \$25,000 per year and part-time tuition at \$19,600 per year, down from \$39,900 and \$25,910, respectively. Unlike an outright tuition drop, the pricing model will not only bring the tuition rate well within reach of many prospective law students, but will also place all students on the same economic playing field for funding their legal education.

To arrive at the \$25,000 per year full-time flat tuition figure, La Verne Law closely examined loan availability in the absence of need-based aid for law students, as well as national median salary figures for first-year ABA accredited law school graduates, which the American Bar Association reports at \$61,250 for the class of 2013. The \$25,000 per year rate, it was determined, will allow students to finance a law school education with a loan repayment that’s affordable on their starting salary.

The new flat tuition rates will be fixed for the duration of students’ La Verne Law education, to promote upfront transparency around the total cost of their

legal education – \$75,000 for full-time across three years, or \$78,400 for part-time over four years. The rates will apply to currently enrolled second-, third- and fourth-year students, and the school will honor existing discount scholarships for those students.

At \$25,000, La Verne College of Law will earn the distinction of the most affordable ABA accredited legal education in California. And while the new tuition structure hold promise for driving enrollment, ‘True Tuition’ is borne out of diversity and inclusivity, designed to reconcile the disparities promoted by a rankings-driven merit scholarship model, and to open the door to a quality legal education for students from diverse backgrounds.

That quality legal education is articulated in the overarching La Verne Law Model of Legal Education, which hinges on a curriculum that combines legal theory, lawyering skills and ethics, and is rooted in experiential learning and bar readiness, alongside a commitment to affordability and accessibility.

Times are changing. Adoption of a “True Tuition Model” marks a golden opportunity to tell the truth about the cost of legal education, to reform tuition, and to further the common goal of producing diverse, distinguished lawyers. And fittingly, it originates here in the Golden State.

Gilbert Holmes is Dean of the University of La Verne College of Law.



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PRACTICE FOR THE PEOPLE: THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S SUMMER LAW CLERK PROGRAM

by Jeff Van Wagenen

In 1996, I came to Riverside County for one simple reason: the District Attorney's Office offered me a summer law clerk externship. Almost 20 years later, this legal community has been my only professional home because of the experience I had that summer. I am not alone. Our legal community is filled with dozens of individuals who first developed a passion for the courtroom, and learned what it truly meant to be a lawyer, while working as a 1L or 2L in the DA's Office. Today, we continue to offer that same opportunity to new generations of budding lawyers.

For more than 30 years, the Riverside County District Attorney's Office has offered summer externships to eligible first and second year law students from accredited and provisionally-accredited law schools. These externship positions provide invaluable experience to those students who have a demonstrated interest in the field of criminal law and are interested in a possible career as a Deputy District Attorney. Our program is relatively unique in that externs work closely with prosecutors in all phases of prosecution work while earning school credit. Our program follows the requirements established by the Greater Los Angeles Consortium on Externships (GLACE). Specifically:

- We are prepared for our externs' arrival.
- We provide appropriate and well defined assignments.
- We arrange weekly conferences with our externs.
- We provide feedback on all assignments.
- We provide access for externs to all observable aspects of operations.

Students can be placed in any of our divisional offices countywide and in a variety of specialized units within each office. Externs may respond to defense motions, prepare legal memoranda on assigned criminal issues, draft misdemeanor appellate briefs, conduct legal research, summarize police and other investigative reports, organize trial binders, and complete discovery compliance and special projects. Students will be encouraged to shadow trial and appellate prosecutors and observe trial, appellate, and other court proceedings. Our certified law student externs can expect to make routine court appearances and presentations, argue motions, present misdemeanor appellate arguments, or conduct preliminary hearings. And, if the stars align, a lucky law student may even be able to complete a misdemeanor jury trial.

All of our law clerks are also eligible to participate in our annual "Closing Argument Competition," which takes place during the last week of July. Students are provided with materials for a criminal prosecution (including mock police reports, a charging document, and applicable jury instruc-

tions). They prepare a prosecution closing argument based on the case provided. Competitors present their arguments to a "jury" of experienced Deputy District Attorneys who score the performances. The Closing Argument Competition culminates with a final championship round that takes place in Department One of our Historic Courthouse and in front of the District Attorney.

Competition for the privilege to participate in our program can be fierce. We recruit nationally, beginning the process in the Fall for the 2Ls and the early Spring for the 1Ls.

To be eligible to participate in the 1L program students must have completed their first year at an ABA accredited or provisionally accredited law school with a 2.0 grade point average or higher. The only course requisite for first year externs is a legal writing class. A demonstrated interest in criminal law is also highly recommended.

To be eligible to participate in the 2L program students must have completed their first and second year at an ABA accredited or provisionally accredited law school with a 2.0 grade point average or higher. The program requires all 2L students to be certified with the State Bar of California. To be certified, the eligible 2L must have successfully completed Civil Procedure and Criminal Law and be concurrently enrolled in or have successfully completed Evidence. Completion of Criminal Procedure is preferred but not required. A demonstrated interest in criminal law is also highly recommended.

As my summer law clerk experience came to an end, I received a phone call that would change my life forever. Assistant District Attorney Don Inskeep offered me a job as a Deputy District Attorney contingent only upon graduating and passing the bar. The feeling of knowing that I not only had a "real" job, but my dream job, lined up before I started my third year of law school is one that I will never forget. I now occupy the same Assistant District Attorney position that Don held so many years ago. Some of my proudest moments as a manager in the DA's Office have come when I have been able to make those same calls with job offers to our law clerks. I can only hope that one day, some of those folks will have the same opportunity.

Jeff Van Wagenen is on the Board of the RCBA, a former president of the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court, and a past Chair of the Criminal Law Section of the RCBA. Jeff is the Assistant District Attorney of Riverside County tasked with the Administration of the Office. For additional information on the Summer Law Clerk Externship program, please email him at jvanwagenen@rivcoda.org.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AT THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

by Eric Keen

In our ongoing commitment to providing the best legal representation to our clients and to the future development of the legal community, the Riverside County Public Defender's Office has developed several volunteer programs. These include a summer law clerk program, a fall and spring post bar law clerk program, a volunteer attorney program, and a volunteer paralegal program.

Summer Law Clerk Program

Our summer law clerk program is designed with a dual purpose in mind: First, to foster our goal of contributing to the education and development of future lawyers and second, to recoup the benefit from the efforts of a highly motivated and committed group of students. Our summer law clerk program will begin on May 27 and will run until August 15. The students will receive on their first day with us a one day orientation with specific legal training to prepare them for their assignments. Throughout the summer, our students will have the opportunity to review case files, have contact with our clients, appear in court, and support attorneys in various assignments such as misdemeanors, general felonies, juvenile court, mental health court, drug court, writs and appeals, and our complex litigation unit. Additionally, it is our hope to arrange a series of informative tours to places like the Riverside County Coroner's Office, the Riverside County Jail, a forensic laboratory, and the Riverside Historic Court House.

The application process for our summer law clerks began in January of this year with the screening and interviewing of over 100 first and second year law school student candidates. We interviewed law students from practically every law school in Southern California and as far away as the University Of Tulsa College Of Law. In April, we selected the 24 most qualified students. In making the selections for these positions we looked for a demonstrated commitment to indigent defense, an understanding and enthusiasm for the work of a public defender, ties to our community, and high ethical standards.

In addition, our office will be certifying those students who qualify under California Rules of Court, Rule 9.42. To qualify, the student must have completed one year of legal studies at a law school accredited by the American Bar Association or the State Bar of California, or have passed the first year law students' examination; have been accepted into, and be enrolled in, the second, third, or fourth year of law school in good academic standing; and have either successfully completed or be currently enrolled in and attending academic courses in evidence and civil procedure.

Once certified, a student may, with client consent and while supervised by an attorney, negotiate for and on behalf

of the client and appear on behalf of the client in any public trial or hearing essentially acting as an attorney. Needless to say, as an office, we are very excited to welcome this first class of students into our office.

Post Bar Law Clerk Program

Our post bar law clerk program has been designed to bring in recent law school graduates who have taken the July or February bar exams and are awaiting their results. Because these volunteers have graduated from law school we are able to certify them pursuant to CRC Rule 9.42 so that they may serve alongside our attorneys in court. Not only are these recent graduates receiving a great opportunity to gain invaluable experience, but our office is able to take the lead in their transition from the class room to the court room. Thus, we create a symbiotic relationship where the graduate receives experience and guidance from seasoned attorneys and the Public Defender's Office receives help shouldering our heavy responsibilities. Additionally, through both of our clerk programs, we create a pool from which we may draw when recruiting for permanent attorney positions.

Volunteer Paralegal Program

Similar to our law clerk programs, our volunteer paralegal program recruits throughout the year from several local paralegal programs. Our office offers volunteer paralegals and paralegal students the opportunity to assist our paralegals and attorneys with such things as expungements, large file maintenance, client inquiries, court room support, and legal research.

Volunteer Attorney Program

The Public Defender's office is also very happy to accept licensed California attorneys who wish to volunteer. Once a volunteer attorney is brought aboard, they receive a full attorney orientation which includes an introduction to the office's structure, processes and management, instruction on written motion practice, introduction to DUI cases, the life of a misdemeanor case, and trial advocacy training. Our office currently has several attorneys volunteering part time throughout the county. Their contributions to our office and our clients have been extremely valuable and greatly appreciated.

Anyone wishing to apply for a volunteer position with the Public Defender's Office is encouraged to email their resume and cover letter to Evelyn Betancur at EVBetanc@co.riverside.ca.us.

Eric Keen is an attorney supervisor with the Riverside County Public Defender's office, who oversees career development, training and the volunteer program.



TAKING THE BAR EXAM

by Paul Lin

A distant whistle followed by a blinding light, and then a loud explosive sound. For our friends and family, this is the joyous sound of fireworks lighting up the night sky, celebrating our achievement after four years. But for those of us about to take the Bar Examination, it's the sight and sound of artillery being fired at our direction. As the days hasten, the explosions get louder and louder. And as I steadily march into this field of battle, I cannot help but wonder: "How did I end up here?"

Four-and-a-half years ago I had absolutely no desire to become an attorney. In fact, I spent most of my life zealously avoiding the traditional roles of being a doctor or a lawyer—a sought after profession in the Asian culture. With that in mind, I entered the work force after high school and merely dabbled with college in my free time. Although I achieved relative success in my chosen non-traditional field, I was missing meaning to my life. As fate would have it, Lady Justice would soon fill that void, no matter how hard I resisted.

As a young adult, I learned that one simply couldn't avoid the long grasp of the law. My affair with Lady Justice began with contesting simple speeding tickets. From there it flourished to midnight rendezvous with the California Tax Code, Civil Code, and Corporate Code. Before I knew it, I was doing in my free time what most law students despised—reading case opinions. I was enamored; but I also began to understand that this newfound knowledge was not something that could simply enrich my life, but rather it would define it.

I soon realized that I was meant to endeavor in the legal profession. However, what was then my greatest pride and accomplishment—my success without any college degree—immediately became my shortcoming. What's more, the California Universities had raised their tuition rates by 32% the same month I came to this epiphany. I was disheartened by the notion that my journey would take longer and cost more than what it could have been, had I not fought destiny.

But as chance would have it, I soon discovered California Southern Law School. To my surprise, the answer to all my problems was right down the street from the Riverside Community College, which I had scarcely attended over the years. I learned that the minimum prerequisite was 60 college units, to be certified by the State Bar of California. As such, there was no need to waste any more time taking the LSATs or getting an undergraduate degree. More importantly, the school was designed to be a part-time nighttime program, which allowed me to continue to be employed throughout my law school career.

Within two weeks of discovering California Southern Law School, I was enrolled. Two weeks after that, I was sitting in my first class of my law school career. Like any other law school, my beginning class of nearly 60 people got the "look to your left and look to your right" speech, with a

twist. Because our school consisted mainly of working adults seeking a second career, we got an additional "look in front of you and look behind you" portion to that speech. Our professors told us that statistically, one-third of the class would be gone after the first semester finals, and only one-fourth of the remaining class would pass the First Year Law Student's Exam (otherwise known as the Baby Bar): I soon learned that they were correct. If you ask my friends and family to describe what I am in one word since I began law school, "ghost" would be the most appropriate. As young newlyweds, my wife and I have had many social obligations. But when we visited our families, I would not be seen any time before or after meals. We'd show up to birthdays, graduations, and parties, where I'd appear in the photos, but yet no one could recall speaking to me. The truth is that I was a ghost, bound not by chains but by my case books. Everywhere I went there was a room reserved for me to haunt for the evening. Sure, I would manifest every so often to talk to old friends, but it was just a shell of my former self that would briefly appear. My mind was always on my studies, determined to pass that Baby Bar—which I did.

The remaining three years would best be described by a quote from the Honorable Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes: "One's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions." As I finish up the final weeks of my law school career, I've come to realize that I am not the same person who sat in that chair four years ago. For instance: I no longer recognize the existence of "car accidents," they are collisions; Whenever I hear facts, I automatically analyze them through my legal rolodex; I can no longer watch legal dramas on television without cringing at the inaccuracies; and finally, I've lost the ability to question people without leading them into a cross-examination.

After surviving four years of this "basic training" known as law school and being adorned with my doctoral hood, I stand now at the edge of battle—a changed man, waiting for the plunge to battle. Although many won't survive; some will try again and eventually succeed, but for others this will be the end of their legal career. As for my classmates and me, we'll march confidently knowing that we are not mere parrots that can recite the law, but rather lions—ready to pounce and rip apart any set of facts—a lesson that could only be taught by a staff of practicing and retired attorneys. This battle is just the beginning, and although we don't know where we'll end up, we know that wherever it is we'll turn it into a better place with our newfound knowledge.

Paul Lin is a 2014 graduate from the California Southern Law School, located in Riverside, California. He will be taking the July 2014 bar examination.



GARRETT & JENSEN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

3390 ORANGE STREET • RIVERSIDE, CA 92501

BOYD F. JENSEN II

TELEPHONE: 951-781-0222

FACSIMILE: 951-781-0221

BOYD@BOYDJENSEN.COM

April 15, 2014

TO: RIVERSIDE COUNTY BAR MEMBERS, ASSOCIATES & AFFILIATES**RE: HESTRIN VS. ZELLERBACH, RIVERSIDE DISTRICT ATTORNEY ELECTION**

I volunteered to draft and publish this letter on behalf of Mike Hestrin after he contacted and met with me, and I talked to some of his and Paul Zellerbach's peers; and frankly after I learned that following a inter-office debate the **Riverside County DA's voted overwhelmingly 205 to 7 against their own leader and to support Mike Hestrin!** – similarly the **office investigators!**

My wife, our children – eight total – have lived in Riverside since 1979, our children having attended local schools. We are proud of our home and our community. I do not have a criminal practice. I have no financial or social relationship with Mike Hestrin or Paul Zellerbach. I have a civil practice, but I know a little about running a law firm, the concept of inspiring loyalty and building synergy, and civil litigation – a couple thousand cases worth. I determined to reach out, at my expense, and offer my peers on the civil side, my favorable opinion of Mike Hestrin.

As a voter, father and lawyer, I don't favor changing DA's every four years. I have met and talked with Grover Trask, Rod Pacheco and appeared before Judge Zellerbach – fine practitioners with established reputations. Yet three DAs in seven years is not good – whatever the politics. I favor stability and commitment and an understanding of our growing Hispanic community all of which Mike Hestrin represents...and besides the single most important characteristic in my view is humility. Every genuinely skilled trial lawyer understands this imperative. It is a staple for leaders who understand the meaning of service, particularly public service. You will not find it frequently referenced to the current District Attorney, unlike his institutional rival, the Public Defender. Mike Hestrin is humble, and is respected by those who know him best – his peers and his foes. And by heritage, experience and the full support of his office as well as law enforcement throughout the county (see below), he is best positioned to provide the high level of consistent, stable service and expertise, essential for those charged with maintaining our Riverside County public safety...and which I favor for my community, family and profession.

You should review the websites for the details of the arguments for both candidates. They speak for themselves – some accurate and some not so much. In my opinion, **Paul Zellerbach deserves our thanks, and Mike Hestrin our vote!**

Blythe Police Officers' Association
Cathedral City Police Officers' Association
CDF Firefighters - Riverside Local 2881
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LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL, LOS ANGELES EXTENDS ROOTS IN THE INLAND EMPIRE

by Brian Costello

This year, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles celebrates the 50th anniversary of its Albany Street campus. And while the school has been at the same downtown LA location since 1964, its reach in the Inland Empire has greatly expanded over the last half-century. A growing number of Loyola alumni and students contribute to the legal communities of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties in a wide range of roles.

Student advocates in Loyola's Youth Justice Education Clinic represent youth clients in the Riverside and San Bernardino County school systems, helping ensure they receive the services to which they are entitled. Part of Loyola's Center for Juvenile Law & Policy, their Inland Empire work addresses such issues as the alleged violation of federal homeless education laws and inappropriate treatment of disabled youth.

"The Inland Empire is a critical component of Loyola's mission of educating attorneys who will be leaders in their fields of practice. Our clinical students benefit greatly from their work helping clients in the region," said Dean Victor Gold. "As our alumni base in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties grows, we look forward to strengthening the bond Loyola Law School shares with the Inland Empire."

The Disability Rights Legal Center (DLRC), which has a longstanding partnership with Loyola that includes offices at the school's Public Interest Law Center in downtown LA, is expanding its Inland Empire Program. Since its launch in 2005, about 70 Loyola student externs have helped the IE program pursue education advocacy and civil rights litigation on behalf of those with disabilities. The DLRC will launch the HIV Law Program in the region to litigate and perform policy work on behalf of those living with HIV or AIDS.

"The Inland Empire is an underserved area when it comes to non-profit legal assistance—especially for people with disabilities," said Heather McGunigle, a 2004 Loyola alumna who served as the first director of the DRLC's Inland Empire office and is now an associate in the Riverside office of Mullen & Filippi, LLP. "I wanted to make a difference in that regard, and I think

the DRLC continues to be instrumental in filling that void."

Elsewhere, Loyola students extern with the District Attorney's Offices of both San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, as well as with judges in the region. And Loyola graduates have increasingly landed as judicial law clerks at both U.S. District Court and U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Riverside – with good reason.

"The Inland Empire is a great place to be a young lawyer; there's a lot of camaraderie," said Cassie Palmer, a 2009 alumna who spent two years after graduation at the federal courthouse in Riverside clerking for the Hon. Virginia A. Phillips, U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. Taylor Steinbacher, a 2012 alumnus who will begin clerking for Judge Phillips in the fall, echoed Palmer's sentiment: "The best part about working in Riverside is the decorum of the attorneys practicing here."

Loyola's alumni population in the Inland Empire continues to grow in its prominence and size. Those include Steve Harmon, who was appointed as Riverside County Public Defender in 2013 after a distinguished career in private practice. Loyola alumni on the Inland Empire bench include the Hon. Oswald Parada, magistrate judge, U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, as well as two justices on the California Court of Appeal, Fourth District, Division Two: Associate Justice Carol Codrington and Presiding Justice Manuel Ramirez. Loyola annually hosts a Riverside alumni lunch to bring its IE members together.

Practical experience and public service have long been hallmarks of an education at Loyola, which was the first ABA-accredited law school in California to institute a pro bono requirement for graduation. School administrators recognized that early on when selecting the schools Albany Street location. Close to the downtown courts, law firms and public agencies that form the legal epicenter of LA, the campus offers convenient access to transit options connecting downtown LA with the IE. Designed by world-famous architect Frank Gehry, the campus features include

state-of-the-art trial advocacy classrooms, meeting spaces that foster collaboration and one of the largest law libraries in the West.

As the legal profession has changed, Loyola's curriculum has evolved to include an increased focus on practical-skills training. Loyola's Advocacy Institute offers the Semester-in-Practice program, which gives students the opportunity to shadow top Southern California attorneys during depositions, mediations, trials and more. The institute includes the Civil Litigation Skills Practicum, which develops pre-trial litigation skills through exercises that include Hollywood actors playing clients and deposition witnesses. The institute also serves as an umbrella for Loyola's moot court teams, which had a banner season this year. The Byrne Trial Advocacy Team won its 21st National Trial Competition regional title in 26 years, and the team went on to place second nationally.

Recent curricular innovations include subject-matter Concentrations in areas like Civil Litigation & Advocacy, Criminal Justice, Entertainment Law, Immigrant Advocacy, Public Interest Law and Tax

Law. The Concentrations help students to focus on a practice area with the guidance of a dedicated program advisor while incorporating practical-training requirements to ensure students are prepared to hit the ground running upon graduation. New clinics include the Consumer-Dept Options Counseling Clinic, the Employment Rights Clinic, the Home Base Immigration Clinic, and the Juvenile Innocence & Fair Sentencing Clinic. Plans are in the works to add a copyright registration clinic to the newly launched Fashion Law Project, which capitalizes on Southern California's emerging prominence as a global fashion hub.

Brian Costello is the assistant director of marketing & communications at Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. He is a 2012 graduate of Loyola's Evening Division Program. More information about Loyola and its programs is available at www.lls.edu.



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LAW SCHOOL BENEFITS US THROUGHOUT LIFE

by Judge Jean Pfeiffer Leonard (Ret.)

Experiences that we have throughout our lives make us the people we become. Each one of us can point to events that shaped our personality and future. Having recently retired from the Riverside County Superior Court, I have had some time to reflect on those past experiences and events that shaped my life.

It has been fun remembering the “good old days.” Some of you reading this article were with me during the last 36 years as a lawyer and a judge, so you know what I am talking about! But there is one decision made over 40 years ago that made a profound difference in my life. That was the decision to attend the University of La Verne College of Law.

I am grateful that we in the Inland Empire have a local law school which includes night classes so that many of us with families and jobs can take advantage of a legal education. Going away to law school was not an option for me. The La Verne College of Law made a difference in my life intellectually, professionally, and improved my quality of life and the lives of my family.

I attended the University of La Verne College of Law graduating with a degree of Juris Doctorate in 1977. I was enrolled in the night school, attending classes three nights a week. I was married and became the mother of three boys while attending law school. I remember going into labor in the middle of a Constitutional Law class, so it was an exciting time!

How many times have we heard “Law school teaches you how to think.” Well, in my case, it did just that. The La Verne professors taught me how to organize my thoughts and focus in on what is important. They taught me how to research, organize and learn for the joy of learning. These are traits that have assisted me in my legal career and also in my personal life. Being able to assess a situation and determine a response is helpful not only to a lawyer but also to a good mom, strong business woman and conscientious citizen.

Let’s face it; it feels good to be noticed and respected for what we do in life. Lawyers and judges are respected members of our community and I am proud to be part of this professional group. Of course we all hear those lawyer jokes, but the joke tellers are also proud when their son or daughter passes the California Bar exam. I remember the look in my parents’ eyes the days I was sworn in as a judge of the Municipal Court and, later, the Superior Court. They were important days for me and for my family. Professionally, one of my most important goals was reached in 1997 when I was appointed to the Riverside County

Superior Court as the first woman to ever attain that position. That appointment was a result of my decision made in 1972 to attend the University of La Verne College of Law.

The quality of my life and the lives of my family have been enhanced because I attended and graduated from the University of La Verne College of Law. Quality of life issues include financial security, professional options, and personal fulfillment. The legal profession is certainly not perfect, but when it comes to earning power, women and men lawyers who work hard can earn a good income. There are still some glass ceilings to shatter, but financial equality is alive and well in our profession. Certainly, male and female judges earn the same and have the same chance to work after retirement as mediators or in the Assigned Judge Program. The law is a good profession for women who strive for advancement.

Graduating opened many doors for me and my many fellow alumni from La Verne. Our career options were huge in 1977. We went on to open private law firms, work in public law firms, serve in city and state government, teach at law schools, and sit as judicial officers, even serving as presiding judges. We were hired by well-known companies and businesses to work as lawyers and counsel. Because of this small, local law school, La Verne graduates made their communities better places.

As I come to the end of my legal career, I cannot help but wonder what my life would have been like if other choices had been made. If that choice to go to law school had been skipped and another profession chosen, would my life have been so fulfilling? I think not. Attending the University of La Verne College of Law, graduating, passing the Bar exam, opening my own law firm, becoming a judge, and now working in the Assigned Judge Program would never have happened without the support and dedication of the many wonderful people at La Verne. My legal education has taken me a long way from San Bernardino’s Pacific High School and I am certain I am not finished yet.

Judge Jean Pfeiffer Leonard was a sole practitioner in the family, juvenile and probate courts of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties prior to her appointment to the Riverside County Bench in 1993. She served on the Municipal Court before being appointed to the Superior Court in 1997. She has served as the Presiding Judge of the Riverside County Juvenile Court and Supervising Judge of the Family Law Court. She helped start the Drug Courts in Riverside and has presided over many high profile Criminal Law cases during her career.



JOURNEY THROUGH LAW SCHOOL

by Agatha Akers

I remember a distinct moment in the late summer of 2007, during my second deployment to Iraq as an Arabic linguist with the United States Army. By this point I had been deployed to a small Forward Operating Base (FOB) for approximately 10 months. It was really hot – much hotter than Riverside County. I had been confined to one-square-mile area and had worked seemingly endless days with no “days off.” The insurgents had been consistently mortaring our FOB and our command informed us that our original 12-month deployment was being extended to 15 months. Amid the heat, chaos, loneliness and exhaustion, I decided that someday I wanted to work in a pleasant community with competent and professional people, doing something that I found challenging and rewarding, and where I could always be learning. At the time, it seemed the exact opposite of what I was actually doing.

Fast forward to early 2010, I’m a recently discharged veteran with no idea of what to do in this new civilian world. It was time for a self-assessment. I knew I liked learning, wanted a professional career that I could be proud of, and wanted to be able to work in this career for a really long time. I decided I wanted to be a lawyer.

Of course, not only did I not know any lawyers, I didn’t quite know exactly what a lawyer does or how one goes about becoming a lawyer. So I did what everyone does when they don’t know something: I googled it.

To my surprise, there was an ABA law school located about four exits down the I-10 from where I lived. I decided to attend a prospective student information session at the University of La Verne College of Law. I loved it right away and knew this was where I wanted to go to law school the minute I pulled in to the parking lot and found several free parking spots conveniently located right next to the single building.

Convenience, however, wasn’t the deciding factor. When I looked around the room at the info session, I realized that many of the people in the room were just like me. They were the first ones in their family to go to college; they didn’t have any lawyers in the family; English was not their first language; they were first-generation immigrants; and they looked like they were over the age of 30. I loved the diversity of the group. Diversity was one of my favorite aspects of military service, and I was hopeful I could find this diversity in my newfound career.

Fortunately, I was accepted at La Verne Law because it was the only law school to which I applied. Luckily, the post-9/11 GI Bill covered my law school tuition because I could not have afforded law school without it; and I found

this gem of a law school that provided me with the skills necessary to practice law and introduced me to the Inland Empire legal community, a community rife with enthusiastic and professional lawyers.

My time at La Verne Law provided me with a sense of community I probably would not have enjoyed at larger institutions. For me, that was what was missing in my new civilian life. At La Verne Law, all of my professors knew my name. I knew all of my classmates. We learned the law together in a collaborative environment.

I admit studying for the bar exam was stressful. Yet in my case, I think it was not as stressful as it was for other students. I had perspective: no matter how stressful things got, it was not going to top the stress of two deployments to a war zone. That said, I’m incredibly grateful I passed on my first attempt because it is not something I want to do again!

Today I am an associate at Wade & Lowe in Rancho Cucamonga. This branch of the firm has 10 attorneys and specializes in insurance coverage. I worked at the firm as a clerk during my law school studies and was thrilled when the firm decided to hire me as an associate when I passed the bar.

How I found this firm was a series of very fortunate events. During my second year at La Verne Law, I submitted my resume for inclusion in the “Resume Book.” The Career Services Department periodically collects student resumes to bind together in a book and sends this book to various firms in the area. Wade & Lowe received this book in late fall 2011 and called me in for an interview. I was delighted to learn the firm specialized in insurance coverage because I had just completed a fascinating elective course in insurance law, taught by Professor Kenneth Held. I also had Professor Held for Torts as a 1L. Needless to say, his enthusiasm, depth of knowledge, and humor in the classroom inspired me to take the concepts I learned in class and pursue a career.

I’ve really enjoyed my journey thus far. The dream of my 2007 self has finally become a reality. I live and work in the Inland Empire with competent and professional people doing something I find challenging and rewarding in a field where I can always learn something new.

Agatha Akers is a U.S. Army veteran who earned her Juris Doctor from the University of La Verne College of Law in May 2013. She is presently an associate with Wade & Lowe in Rancho Cucamonga.



THE TRANSITION TO LAW TEACHING

by Joanna K. Sax

I've been asked to describe how I became a law professor and the considerations involved for those thinking about becoming a law professor. It turns out that my personal story is related to, but also distinct from, those who are considering the law teaching market. At the outset, I want to say that the views expressed in this article are my own and do not represent my employer. We are lawyers after all, so I hope it makes sense to start with a disclaimer!

I appreciate the opportunity to share my story. After college, I knew I wanted to join the academy. Initially, I wanted to become a scientist. After a fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, I entered a PhD program in Cell and Molecular Biology at the School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. During my time as a PhD student, the topic of embryonic stem cell research came to the forefront in both the scientific literature and mainstream press. My graduate lab did study embryonic stem cells, but that did not stop us from discussing the debate. In 2001, President Bush placed a practical ban on the use of embryonic stem cells in labs supported by federal money. To me, the way this played out in the press did not represent the scientific concerns and I did not/do not believe the public was well informed. This experience changed me, and the course of my academic career. I came to see the importance of scholarship regarding scientific policy, and realized that I wanted to contribute to the policy decisions that impact basic scientists. After I completed my PhD, I entered law school at the University of Pennsylvania with the goal of becoming a law professor to form a nexus between the legal and scientific communities. My scholarship promotes policies to advance scientific research and protect scientific integrity. One of the best parts of my job as a law professor is that I can write freely because I do not represent the views of a client or an employer – just me.

But, you may ask . . . law professors train law students to be lawyers, so why am I focusing on my scholarly interests? This is a fair question and my simple response is that a deep understanding of the law and legal principles through my scholarship is one of the biggest advantages that I can bring to my students to help explain how the law works, what influences the law, which themes are the undercurrent of the law, and how to use the foundations of law to advocate for a client. In a nutshell, teaching law requires a constant study of legal theory to bring together all the legal rules in a coherent fashion. In my scholar-

ship on law and science, I use economic theory. Economic theory also explains many aspects of understanding and practicing law. When I teach Contracts, I utilize economic theory to teach about transactions costs, for example.

Back to my path to becoming a law professor . . . after law school, I spent two and a half years as a commercial litigator at a big law firm. I did this to round-out my legal skills so that I could be a better teacher and, candidly, to repay some student loans. An added bonus turned out to be that I enjoyed many aspects of practicing law. I bring this practical experience into my classroom to help my students understand the skills needed to be a lawyer.

During my time as an associate at a law firm, I decided to transition to the academy. The process of becoming a law professor might have been the most competitive thing I have experienced in my life. The candidates on the law teaching market are remarkable and it is difficult to measure up. I was told at that time that I might be able to overcome my law degree from Penn because I had a PhD. This is because there is either a real or perceived advantage for students who graduate from Yale and Harvard.

The application process to become a law professor is unlike anything else. Most candidates apply through the AALS and attend the Faculty Recruitment Conference in Washington, DC, where the applicants and hiring committees all come together to conduct screening interviews. After the screening interviews, the selected applicants are invited back to the particular law school for a formal interview. After that, candidates may receive an offer to join the law school.

I was lucky; I received an offer to join the faculty at California Western School of Law in San Diego. I am grateful that my Institution hired me. Recently, I received tenure.

To become a law professor requires careful career planning. Law professors have three main areas of our work—teaching, scholarship and service. I think that applicants should seek opportunities to demonstrate potential in all three areas. Increasingly, applicants are completing Visiting Assistant Professorships (VAPs), which are fellowships at law schools that help lawyers transition into law professors. VAP programs typically provide support to allow the fellows an opportunity to teach, write and get a feel for service to the institution and community. PhD programs also provide a forum to demonstrate the ability to transition into the academy.

I have served on our hiring committee, which among other things, makes me even more grateful that I have a law professor position. The candidates on the current market are remarkable. With the financial pressures that law schools are currently facing, the entry level law professor market is tight. I think that it takes planning and commitment to prepare for an opportunity to successfully transition into law teaching.

One of the best parts of being a law professor is the opportunity to connect with the legal community. If you are interested in becoming a law professor, please feel free to contact me.

Joanna Sax is an Associate Professor of Law at California Western School of Law. Joanna writes in the area of law and science. She teaches Contracts, Trusts & Estates, and Law, Science & Medicine. The views expressed herein are her own.



MEMBERSHIP

The following persons have applied for membership in the Riverside County Bar Association. If there are no objections, they will become members effective May 30, 2014.

Ella S. Chatterjee – Sole Practitioner, Riverside

Leeah Fontaine-Chammas – Fontaine-Chammas Law Firm, Rancho Cucamonga

Terence J. Gallagher – Oivarez Madruga PC, Los Angeles

Richard Gerhardt (A) – Holstein Taylor & Unitt, Riverside

Richard Henderson – Retired Attorney, Indio

Christopher K. Hording - Sole Practitioner, Moreno Valley

Emily Meeson – Clayson Mann Yaeger & Hansen, Corona

Rosemarie B. Pitruzzello (A) – Law Offices of Daniel J. Tripathi, Riverside

Timothy R. Owen – Varner & Brandt, Riverside

Robert Schnabel – Retired Attorney, Corona

William W. Seager – Retired Attorney, Riverside

Nilima Patel Shah – Paragon Law Firm, Corona

Cynthia D. Vargas – Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost LLP, Riverside

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THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW: HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED FOR GRADUATING LAW STUDENTS

by Juanita E. Mantz

When I graduated from USC Law School in 2002, times were good. The starting salary for first year associates was somewhere around \$150,000. Many of my friends had offers from multiple firms. We were on top of the world. For law school graduates, it was the best of times. In a way, it was also the worst of times.

Upon graduation, I took a job at the largest law firm in Texas. I shrugged away my dreams of being a public defender for the lure of big money and prestige. It was what I thought I wanted. I grew up in Ontario, California, the daughter of a truck driver father and a waitress mother and always daydreamed of a different life of riches and fancy dinners. I had been poor for so long waitressing my way through school that I felt it was meant to be. It was my destiny.

Six months in, I knew I had made a horrible mistake. Big firm life was not for me. The tort and business litigation work of a newbie associate was soul sapping and dreadfully boring. At the fancy dinners I attended, I felt more comfortable talking to the wait staff than to the partners and other associates; I didn't know which forks to use. My best friend was my secretary. One partner was shocked when I told him that I would rather be a bartender or waitress most days. In short, I didn't fit in.

But being the hard worker I was, I decided to muscle my way through it. I mollified my sadness with happy hours with co-workers at the Four Seasons, expensive purses, a fancy car and a big house. None of it helped. Three years later, I moved to another firm to join my husband in San Francisco. The new firm was no better, if anything it was worse, and I jumped to yet another firm in the Inland Empire by my sixth year of practice.

When I interviewed at the public defender in Riverside, the interview team was dubious. They asked me, "How do we know you're not just a burned out civil lawyer?" I couldn't argue with them about my frustration with a civil practice, but always a pro at selling myself, I emphasized my work at USC's Post Conviction Clinic my first law school summer and how I always wanted to be a public defender.

With a wry grin, I told them that I got waylaid. "It was the money. It blinded me." My sincerity paid off and they took a chance and hired me. Becoming a public defender

saved my law career and I found the passion for justice I had been missing. The public defender interview was the hardest interview I ever had. The moment when I got the call from the office making me an offer is one I will never forget. I jumped up and down with joy and knew my life would change.

Nowadays, times are different for graduating law students. Law school graduates are no longer being lured by big money in the same way they were ten years ago. Law firms are becoming dinosaur like institutions that must change their price structure or risk becoming extinct. And making partner is akin to becoming an NBA star. Perhaps, it is better this way because no one should go to law school for the money. Law is a hard profession. The hours are long and the stress is huge. One should go into the law for the love of it. The part of the law someone loves should be the muse (and there are people who love a civil practice) not greenbacks.

Thinking back to 2002, if I had a mulligan, I would go straight to the public defender's office and find my passion for the law right out of law school. Or I would go solo if a government job wasn't available. Life is too short to waste six years loathing your job. And, in the end, my job as a criminal defender is like life, full of ups and downs and peppered with both joyful and heartbreaking moments. But, it is never boring.

So for all those naysayers who say a law degree is not worth it anymore, I say the opposite. A law degree is worth more than it ever was. It just has a different kind of value, one that is far more poignant.

After graduating from USC Law in 2002, Juanita E. Mantz worked at large corporate law firms in Texas and Northern and Southern California, but found her bliss as a Deputy Public Defender here in Riverside. She is working on her young adult memoir, "My Inland Empire: Hometown Stories", and her stories have been published in literary journals including The Acentos Review and As/Us: A Space for Women of the World. She is a UC Berkeley VONA summer writing workshop four time alum and she writes a blog detailing her adventures in the Inland Empire at <http://www.lifeofjemcom-jemmantz.blogspot.com/>.



JUDICIAL PROFILE: JUDGE SUNSHINE SUZANNE SYKES

by Sophia Choi

I was very enthusiastic to write this month's Judicial Profile on Judge Sunshine Suzanne Sykes, whom I had the pleasure of being friends with for some time now. I could still remember the zeal she had in a conversation I had with her several years ago when she told me that her goal has always been to become a judge. It came as no surprise to me when I heard the news of her appointment to the bench, as she possesses all the qualities it takes to be an excellent judicial officer.



Judge Sunshine Suzanne Sykes

Judge Sykes is a member of the Navajo Nation and was born to the Coyote Pass Clan. She was born on the Navajo Reservation in Tuba City, Arizona. She grew up throughout Arizona, New Mexico, and the East Coast. Judge Sykes came to California as she was admitted to Stanford University, where she completed her undergraduate studies with an English major with a Creative Writing emphasis. She graduated with Honors in 1997. She loved California and all its beauty so much that she decided to stay. She loved the ocean, the mountains, the green trees, and the flowers. She also loved the diversity of the people and experiences.

Upon graduating, Judge Sykes took a year off and worked as an intern at California Indian Legal Services in Oakland, California. It was at this time that she met her husband, who is currently a practicing attorney in Riverside County. Judge Sykes began Stanford Law School in 1998, another stepping stone towards her goal. During law school, she clerked at California Indian Legal Services and DNA People's Legal Services. She focused on issues concerning Native Americans and Federal Indian Law. She graduated from law school in 2001.

Judge Sykes went onto a two-year Equal Justice Works Fellowship at California Indian Legal Services, concentrating on domestic violence issues in American Indian communities. Her project developed services for domestic violence victims and their families that were culturally appropriate. At California Indian Legal Services, she also worked with Tribes on various issues, including issues relating to tribal jurisdiction and child welfare, as well as providing direct legal services to individuals.

Her eventual move and the beginning of her roots to Riverside County was in 2003, when she began working on the Juvenile Defense Panel representing parents

and children in Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency hearings. Two years later, in 2005, Judge Sykes started work as a Deputy County Counsel for Riverside County, representing the Department of Social Services in juvenile dependency matters. She contributed invaluable work to the Department as she developed expertise in the Indian Child Welfare Act. She provided trainings for social workers, attorneys, and judges throughout the State of California on the Indian Child Welfare Act. Judge Sykes also handled various other assignments

within the office, including an extensive civil litigation caseload and representations of the Riverside County Transportation Department and the Registrar of Voters.

The broad legal experience she gained throughout her legal career and her years at the County Counsel's Office eventually brought her to her judgeship dream. On December 5, 2013, she was appointed to the Riverside County Superior Court by Governor Edmund G. Brown as the first Native American judge to be appointed to the Riverside County bench. Judge Sykes knew she wanted to become an attorney and a judge at a very young age. When she was living with her mother in Gallup, New Mexico in third grade, she did not have a working vehicle and had to walk everywhere. The town was on the border of the Navajo reservation, where there was great poverty and alcoholism. Due to the prevalent racism and discrimination against American Indian people, Judge Sykes saw and experienced numerous injustices. Even as a young child, she knew that one day, she wanted to make a difference in the lives of those who were treated unfairly and unjustly due to who they were and where they came from. And, as a judge, Judge Sykes strives for justice.

Family is an important part of Judge Sykes' life. She enjoys spending time with her daughters, watching them play soccer and softball. She enjoys spending time outdoors, going to the beach and gardening. She enjoys watching sports, such as the Oakland A's and college basketball. Just as important as family is to her, she realizes the importance of all families and of each person in this community. Her goal on the bench is to bring justice to those who come before her.

Judge Sykes is well-liked and respected by the Riverside County legal community. Raising her beautiful daughters

with her husband in Riverside County, she is firmly committed to serving this community and committed to justice. She stated, "As a sitting judge in Riverside County, I believe one of the most important qualities a judge can have is respect. Respect for the rule of law, respect for justice, and respect for victims of crime." Judge Sunshine Suzanne Sykes asks for your vote in the June 2014 elec-

tion for her continued service in Riverside County as a Superior Court Judge.

Sophia Choi, a member of the Bar Publications Committee, is a deputy county counsel with the County of Riverside. She is the immediate past president of the Asian Pacific American Lawyers of the Inland Empire.



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Conference rooms, small offices and the third floor meeting room at the RCBA building are available for rent on a half-day or full-day basis. Please call for pricing information, and reserve rooms in advance, by contacting Charlene or Lisa at the RCBA office, (951) 682-1015 or rcba@riversidecountybar.com.

Paralegal Position/Work Wanted

Twelve years experience in civil litigation & family law, complaints, demurrers, motions, discovery. (951) 544-7234

Riverside County Superior Court Online Copy Requests Available For Immediate E-Mail Delivery

April 22, 2014 – The Riverside County Superior Court is pleased to announce an enhancement to its Online Copy Request system that will provide immediate e-mail delivery of non-certified documents and minute orders.

Launched in early 2012, the online system allows the public to request copies or certified copies of documents for various case types that are open to public inspection. Copy fees, including postage, are assessed.

The enhancement to the copy system will allow orders to be fulfilled automatically from the court's database and document management without staff intervention. Previously, court records staff were required to retrieve documents and images requested online and attach them to e-mails. The enhanced system is fully automated and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The automated improvement to the system applies to non-certified documents and minute orders only. Certified documents must be printed, certified and delivered by regular mail. It is recommended that requests for certified and non-certified documents on the same case be split into separate orders so that the non-certified documents can be delivered via e-mail. Orders requested and eligible for delivery by e-mail are processed immediately, fulfilled in three to five minutes, and no postage is charged.

To place an on-line copy request visit the court's website at www.riverside.courts.ca.gov and click *copy requests* under the *online services* tab.



Riverside
County

LAWYER

Riverside County Bar Association

4129 Main St., Ste. 100, Riverside, CA 92501
RCBA 951-682-1015 LRS 951-682-7520
www.riversidecountybar.com rcba@riversidecountybar.com

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