



NWCU JOURNAL

Volume 2, Issue 1

Message from the Dean...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

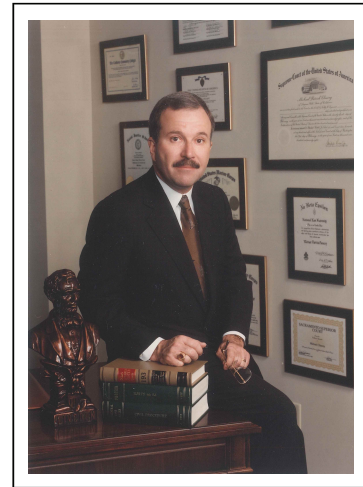
| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY | 2 |
| GENERAL BAR PASS RATES | 2 |
| THE PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY EXAM | 4 |
| REPLACEMENT DEGREE CERTIFICATES | 5 |
| AN INVITATION TO ALL STUDENTS | 5 |
| CALENDAR OF EVENTS | 5 |
| DEAN CLANCEY RECEIVES LL.M. DEGREE | 6 |

Justice and Freedom to Study Law

The study of law is a significant part of the search for justice in society. It should be available to everyone, including the poor, working class people and those who live and work in cities far away from traditional schools, without unreasonable restraints and limitations.

Some of the greatest lawyers and public servants this country has ever known studied law in ways that are considered nontraditional.

The late Marvin Lewis, Sr., a famed San Francisco Trial Lawyer, and former California Governor Edmund G. (Pat) Brown, Sr. were both graduates of the same small evening law school in San Francisco.



Others, like Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, (Harvard) Dean Roscoe Pound, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Robert Jackson (U.S. Trial Judge at Nuremberg), Clarence Darrow, and many more, either spent little or no time in law school. According to the Lincoln biography by Carl Sandburg,

Lincoln never even saw the inside of one. In Lincoln's own words; he "...studied law with no one."

Possibly the best and most respected Presiding Judge (late 1970's) the Orange County Superior Court has ever had was Judge Robert Banyard who received his education

Continued on page 3

Quotes to live by

"Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap; let it be taught in schools, seminaries, and in colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling books, and in almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. And, in short, let it become the political religion of the nation."

-Abraham Lincoln

The NWCU Internet Campus

Administrators at Northwestern California University have been working on updating and improving our school's website. The revamped

website now includes a discussion board where students can exchange information with professors, view and download course material, link to

an online law library, and place bookstore orders for school materials. Be sure to visit our Internet Campus located at www.NWCULaw.edu



Parlaying a Juris Doctor Degree

The Bar Associations of some states may allow graduates of non-traditional law schools such as ours, who have continued on to complete LLM degree programs at ABA approved law schools, to take their bar exams for bar membership, without a requirement of prior active practice or bar membership elsewhere.

Officials at St. Thomas University School of Law of Miami, Florida (an ABA approved law

school) have confirmed that they will accept graduates of our JD program into their online LLM program in International Taxation.

Information regarding the LLM degree program at St. Thomas University can be obtained by contacting that school directly. The school's mailing address, phone number and website address are, as follows:

- **ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW** -

16400 NW 32nd Avenue
Miami, Florida 33054

Phone:(305) 625-6000
In Florida Toll Free:
(800) 367-9006
Other States
(800) 367-9010
Website: www.STU.edu

Students, prospective students and graduates are advised to check with the Bar of each state in which they wish to practice for eligibility rules.

General Bar Pass Rates

Our pass rate for first-timers on the last General Bar Exam (July 2001) was **43** per cent. The time before that (February 2001) it was **50** per cent. It has been as high as **75** per cent (February 1994).



The last published statistics of cumulative General Bar Exam pass rates for a five-year period, in 1996, had our school's five-year, first-timer pass rate at **44.2** per cent (the highest then of all law schools in the correspondence law school category).

Our school (unlike others of its type) does not have a mandatory requirement that students take the LSAT before

admission, nor do we mandate that students attend certain classes. Instead, we provide a program of the highest quality with the lowest law school tuition and give students the freedom to decide, for themselves, whether or not they will take bar review courses. We strongly advise them to do so, while respecting each student's individual right to decide.

Justice and Freedom to Study Law *continued from pg. 1*

in law through office/chamber study.

William A. Smith, who is regarded by many to have been the best criminal trial lawyer for high profile cases in California's Central Valley before he recently retired, is a graduate of the LaSalle Correspondence Law School program.

Paula Turner-Abbiss, a graduate of our school, is a Deputy District Attorney for Tulare County in Visalia, California. Her current assignment is that of Juvenile Gang Prosecutor.

Another graduate of our school's correspondence law study program, Angel Price, holds the position of General Attorney at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Federal Operations, in Washington, D.C.

Marcos Comacho received his education in law exclusively through law office study and today is the General Counsel for the United Farm Workers (UFW) in Keene, California. He and UCLA Law School Professor Gary Lee Blasi, who also became a lawyer through law office study, have stated that such programs ensure us that economic obstacles will not prevent anyone from studying law.

Correspondence law school graduates also include the following named individuals who became California Judges:

Banducci, Dominic D.--Humboldt County Municipal Court
Appointed 2/29/90 by Board of Supervisors
LaSalle University Law School*-1978

Baysinger, Robert--San Joaquin County Municipal Court
Appointed 6/1/84 by Governor Deukmejian
LaSalle University Law School* - 1972

Bishop, Eugene R.--Riverside County Superior Court
Appointed 3/27/85 by Governor Deukmejian
Blackstone College of Law** - 1960

Hoff, Michael R.--Los Angeles County Superior Court
Appointed 12/2/91 by Governor Deukmejian
LaSalle University Law School* - 1971

Jager, Jacob H.--San Bernardino County Municipal Court
Appointed 1/12/76 by Governor Brown, Jr.
LaSalle University Law School* - 1969

Rowland, Ronald D.--Humboldt County Municipal Court
Election 6/26/84
LaSalle University Law School* - 1974

Sullivan, Orville W.--Imperial County Superior Court

Appointed 12/24/81 by Governor Brown, Jr.
American Extension School of Law* - 1958

Teilh, Paul R.--Santa Clara County Superior Court
Election 6/80
LaSalle University Law School* - 1957

[* *LaSalle University Law School and American Extension School of Law have closed.*

** *Blackstone College of Law still exists, though it no longer offers a program leading to Bar eligibility.*]

Far more numerous, are the currently sitting California Judges who are graduates of unaccredited classroom-type schools.

California certainly deserves credit for the variations in legal education allowed over the years to those seeking bar membership. This is especially so now that advanced electronic methods are available to communicate and teach. Education of the type President Lincoln received, through the reading of law books, can nowadays be supplemented with modern technologies such as videotapes, audiotapes, and computer online programs and libraries. Now, more than ever, alternative methods of education can and should exist.

Law schools like McGeorge School of Law of Sacramento (now a fully accredited and ABA approved law school) initially held classes in the living room of Mr. McGeorge, its founder. It later moved to a couple of rented classrooms at a local business college. From there, it moved to a small, leased premises and stayed there for many years. Over a period of decades, though not accredited until 1964, it produced some of the finest lawyers and jurists that the Sacramento Valley and California has ever had.

Judge William White, for example, was one of the early McGeorge graduates. He served on the Sacramento County Superior Court Bench until his death in 1990 and was thought of by many to be the best judge ever to have served in Sacramento. His superior knowledge of the law and wonderful judicial temperament were displayed repeatedly in the many complex cases that were assigned to him over the years.

California has other, now fully accredited law schools with beginnings similar to that of McGeorge. Golden Gate College, School of Law (originally incorporated as the Y.M.C.A. Law School); the University of Southern California Law Center (originally established as Los Angeles

Continued on pg.4

Justice and Freedom to Study Law *continued from pg. 3*

School of Law); California Western School of Law (formerly Balboa Law College); Southwestern University School of Law; the University of Santa Clara School of Law; the University of San Francisco Law School and others, all started as small, austere, part-time (evening) law schools that were established to teach law to working class people. Each school's success has been exemplified from their beginnings, by graduates who have served their communities as lawyers and jurists.

The State of California's initial and follow-up review of unaccredited and correspondence law schools now protects the students of those schools.

Currently, a list of State approved schools is maintained by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (BPPVE), a branch of the California Department of Consumer Affairs. Schools that are not classified as "approved" by BPPVE are not allowed to issue degrees under California State Authority. This is a result of sweeping changes made to California Education Code Section 94310 et. seq. To receive state approval, a school (including unaccredited and correspondence law schools) must comply with very particular regulatory requirements and successfully undergo a thorough investigation by a visiting committee sent to the school by the Bureau. A representative from the

Committee of Bar Examiners is invited to participate in each review of a law school.

Unaccredited and correspondence law schools not approved by the Bureau are not allowed to register with the California Committee of Bar Examiners. Accordingly, students continuing at non-BPPVE approved law schools are not allowed to take the California Bar Exam.

The BPPVE approved law study programs provided by unaccredited and correspondence law schools in California provide needed opportunities to deserving citizens.

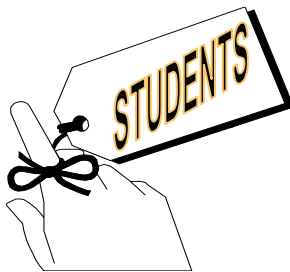
A large majority of the students in these schools possess bachelor degrees, and a substantial number are working individuals with postgraduate degrees. These people clearly deserve economic freedom to evaluate their own decisions regarding their pursuit of academic endeavors in the field of law.

In my opinion, the State of California has done a wonderful job providing that freedom, and in the process has made the study of law open and accessible.

- *President and Dean Michael P. Clancey*

The Professional Responsibility Exam

Students who haven't already taken the separate Professional Responsibility Exam, and are beyond their first year of law school, need to make arrangements with the NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BAR EXAMINERS to do so. This entity administers that exam and sends the results to the California Committee of Bar Examiners, which is not itself involved



in giving the exam.

The professional responsibility exam is only given in the months of March, August and November. It can be taken in most of the states of the United States, as well as in Guam, Palau, the Northern Mariana Islands and the US Virgin Islands.

Most students take the Professional Responsibility Exam before they take the General Bar Exam. It can be taken at any time after completion of the first year of law school. The contact information

needed to make arrangements to take the Professional Responsibility Exam is, as follows:

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BAR EXAMINERS

PO Box 4001

Iowa City, Iowa 52243-4001

USA

Phone: (319) 341-2500

Website: www.ncbex.org

Replacement Degree Certificates

Our Graduates who received NWCUC Degree Certificates before 1997 may replace them with our newer version. The cost of the classic-styled replacement certificate is \$35. This charge includes a premium, leather-like presentation folder with gold

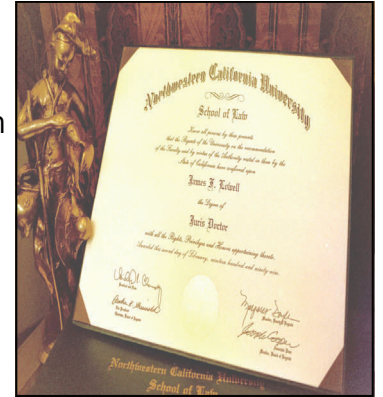
embossed school seal. Cost includes all shipping and handling fees.

To order your replacement certificate please send a signed request and a check, made out to Northwestern California University.

Please include your

current delivery address (cannot be delivered to a P.O. Box).

Your new Northwestern California University Degree Certificate will arrive approximately 4-6 weeks after we receive your request.



An Invitation To All Students

We would like to feature articles written by our students in the NWCUC JOURNAL. And to help get you interested we're offering to send a *Northwestern California University School of Law* T-Shirt to any student or Alumnus whose article is featured in future is-

sues.

Think your story isn't of interest? Just try us. Being a non-traditional school, we have a diverse student body. Let your fellow students know what skills have helped you study law. Inform us how your education has improved

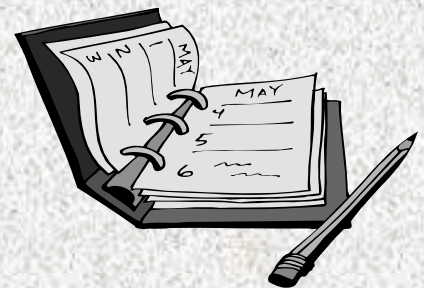
your professional life, or tell us how you became interested in the legal field. Stories can be of any length.

You can email your story to: Kelly@NWCULaw.edu or fax it to the attention of Kelly Spruiell at 916-487-5681.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **June 22, 2002 - Mock Baby Bar at Northwestern California University in Sacramento** (call for more information)
- **June 25, 2002 - First Year Law Students' Exam**
- **July 30, 31 & August 1, 2002 - General Bar Exam**
- **October 19, 2002 - Mock Baby Bar at Northwestern California University in Sacramento** (call for more information)
- **October 22, 2002 First Year Law Students' Exam**



NORTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY

School of Law

3620 American River Drive, Suite 115
Sacramento, CA 95836

Phone: 916-480-9470
Fax: 916-487-5681



Visit us on the Web for more
information and student services
www.NWCULaw.edu

Dean Clancey Receives LL.M. Degree from Regent University

In May of 2001 Dean Michael P. Clancey graduated from Regent University School of Law in Virginia Beach, Virginia with a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree in International Taxation.

The LL.M. Program at Regent University consisted of coursework designed to provide a sophisticated background in basic principles of inter-

national taxation with a particular focus on global and offshore planning. It allowed students to also examine areas of international tax practice of particular interest to them.

Dean Clancey, who received his Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree in 1973 from Western State University, recently stated that he appreciated the opportunity to further his

knowledge of law through the structured coursework and the independent research required for completion of the Regent program.

