

NWCU JOURNAL

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STATISTICAL SHOW-OFF

At the end of 1997 the State Bar of California released cumulative law school pass rates for the General Bar Examination. The rates show that Northwestern California University achieved the highest pass rates for both first time takers and all takers of the examination, amongst Correspondence Law Schools.

The rates were taken from the years of 1992 through 1996 and reflect a more accurate expectation of the school's pass rates than a single pass rate, which can reflect an erratic high or low. Statistics that show cumulative pass rates like these also dispel other school's claims to have higher rates. Only Northwestern California University can say that its cumulative General Bar examination statistics are **The Highest of all Correspondence Law Schools in California.**

Dean Clancey is very proud of the achievements of the school's graduates, both in their pass rates and in how they have applied their knowledge to better their lives.

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NOT ONLY DOES NWCU BELIEVE IN THE SUCCESS OF DISTANCE EDUCATION, BUT ALSO IN THE SUCCESS OF DISTANCE EMPLOYMENT.



Hello, my name is Kelly Spruiell and I am the Special Projects Coordinator for NWCU. It is my duty to oversee the school's marketing, catalog shipment, Lexis-Nexis services and newsletter

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Quotes to live by

"EXTREMISM IN THE DEFENSE OF LIBERTY IS NO VICE. MODERATION IN THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE IS NO VIRTUE"

-Barry Goldwater

"MAN'S CAPACITY FOR JUSTICE MAKES DEMOCRACY POSSIBLE, BUT MAN'S INCLINATION TO INJUSTICE MAKES DEMOCRACY NECESSARY."

-Reinhold Neibuhr

STATISTICAL SHOW-OFF

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"I attribute our outstanding pass rates to the hard work and pursuit of educational excellence of the alumni, staff and faculty of our school. I am confident our current students will succeed as well!"

-See page 3 for the pass rates mentioned in this article.

BAR EXAM TUTOR

James Desario

1 (800) 544-4474

EXT 50188

"highly recommended"- Dean Clancey

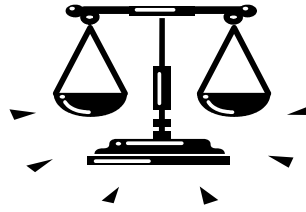
IN MEMORIUM...

In April of this year our staff and faculty were saddened to learn of the death of Northwestern Alumnus, and Sacramento attorney, John James Lidster a 1990 graduate. John lost his life after a three month long coma, due to an automobile accident. Leidster died at the age of 37.

He is remembered at NWCU as an outstanding and wonderful person. "The type of person who studies law for the right reasons. He was an honorable man, who practiced law with caring and compassion", Dean Clancey recently remarked while remembering John.

The Lidster family shared their expressions of love for John, following his death, saying "You were a man of true service, able to give without attachment of reward or recognition, choosing to work with conscious love and unselfish giving. You are truthful, you are love, you gave the world the best you had."

Thank you John for being in our lives.



FROM THE STATE BAR

STATE BAR ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF THE FEBRUARY 1998 BAR EXAM

SAN FRANCISCO, May 26, 1998 — The State Bar's Committee of Bar Examiners reported today that 40.0 percent of applicants passed the February 1998 General Bar Examination (GBX). A total of 3,896 applicants took the test. The overall pass rate for this exam is down from the February 1997 GBX when 48.8 percent passed. If all 1,558 people who passed the February 1998 GBX satisfy other requirements for admission, they will become members of the bar.

Preliminary statistical analyses show that the pass rate for first-time applicants was as follows: 61.1% passed of the 758 applicants who attended law schools approved by the American Bar Association (ABA); 40.4% passed of the 275 applicants from schools accredited by the Committee but not approved by the ABA; and 3.6% passed of the 28 applicants who studied law at unaccredited law schools.

For repeating applicants, the pass rates were 38.5 percent of the 1,134 applicants from ABA-approved law schools; 22.5 percent of the 707 applicants from schools accredited by the Committee; and 10.4 percent of the 182 applicants from unaccredited law schools. The applicants not included in the above totals either studied law in schools outside the United States, through correspondence law schools,

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We would like to encourage any Student, Staff, Alumni or Faculty member to contribute to the NWCU JOURNAL. If you have an interesting story, published work, or advice for others please send it to: Newsletter Editor

Northwestern California University
Sacramento, CA



The State Bar of California

General Bar Examination

Cumulative Law School Pass Rates

February 1992 through July 1996

CORRESPONDENCE LAW SCHOOLS

LAW SCHOOL NAME	ALL TAKERS (includes repeat takers)			FIRST TIMERS		
	TOOK	PASS	%PASS	TOOK	PASS	%PASS
BERNADEAN U.	15	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
CITY UNIVERSITY	58	4	6.9	7	2	28.6
KENSINGTON U.	78	8	10.3	31	6	19.4
LA SALLE EXTENTION	31	3	9.7	1	0	0.0
LA SALLE U. -MISSOURI	16	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
NEWPORT U.	50	11	22.0	17	7	41.2
NORTH AMERICAN	20	2	10.0	1	0	0.0
NORTHWESTERN CALIF U.	85	22	25.9	36	16	44.2
OCEAN U.	6	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
SOUTHLAND U.	17	2	11.8	0	0	0.0
THOMAS JEFFERSON	30	2	6.7	3	1	33.3
U. OF CENTRAL CALIF.	4	0	0.0	1	0	0.0
U. OF HONOLULU	35	5	14.3	1	0	0.0
U. OF SAN GABRIEL VALLEY	5	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT U.	176	44	25.0	66	24	36.4

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FLEMING'S FUNDAMENTALS OF LAW

Fleming's Fundamentals of Law Baby Bar Review is an intensive four-day course offering the most advanced complete program of instruction and written materials available to students preparing to take the Baby Bar Examination. This workshop integrates substantive law with examination analysis. Fleming's teaches and clearly demonstrates the application of law to hypothetical facts, a skill that is essential to pass each section of the baby bar exam. All workshop participants receive:

- An Extensive Writing Workshop: Students learn the mechanics of legal analysis.
- Over 1200 Multiple Choice Questions with Teaching Emphasis On Multistate Exam Test Taking and Reading Comprehension Pitfalls.
- Opportunity To Write Six Exams That Are Submitted For Personal Cassette Critiques by FFOL Staff Lawyers.
- Essay Preparation Materials Includes Substantive Law Outlines, Writing Workbook and Past Baby Bar/Bar Hypothetical.

Prices: Live or video course \$400.00
 Home-study course \$425.00 plus tax

CALL 1(800) LAW EXAM

(714) 770-7030 FAX

(714) 454-8556

I first worked for Northwestern in the early 1990's while on a break from Humboldt State University in Northern California. I enjoyed being a part of another side to formal education, the 'untraditional' side. I was proud to work for a school that gave people the opportunity to educate and advance themselves without having them conform to the scheduled demands of traditional schools. For some students there is no way to get an education, the type that Northwestern offers, if it was not offered by correspondence.

Having known Northwestern's commitment to excellence through distance education it shouldn't have surprised me when I was offered a 'distance position' a year and a half ago. Having just graduated from the University of New Mexico and becoming a mother at the same time (okay actually 10 days later) I knew this was an offer without parallel. I value being able to work, as well as spend a good part of my day raising my son.

To some it might sound like an awkward situation but it actually works out quite well. Having great communication between my office and Northwestern's main office is the key to our successful relationship. . Being a behind the scenes employee has enabled me to contribute my skills to Northwestern while living in New Mexico. It is great that so many people have this same opportunity for studying law.

ALUMNI NEWS

Once again we would like to thank all Alumni who have sent in their personal stories to share with us. Please keep your letters coming in. We have received calls and letters expressing great appreciation for publishing them in our newsletter.

People have different reasons for wanting to study law. For me, I did it as a personal challenge. I grew up with the notion that law is a difficult subject and I merely wanted to prove to myself that I have the mental capacities to handle a "perceived" difficult subject, law.

As an airline pilot, my work schedule did not allow me to attend a traditional law school and correspondence law study was my only option. Northwestern California University offered the opportunity for me to establish my eligibility to sit for the California General Bar Exam at an affordable price, I am grateful for that.

The hours spent reading law books and "outlines" finally paid off when I received a letter in the mail informing me, "The Committee of Bar Examiners of the State of California is delighted to report that you achieved a passing score on the February 1997 administration of the California Bar Examination. Congratulations, you may justly be proud of your achievement". I felt relieved after reading the letter because I would not have to attempt the bar exam a second time and deal with the uncertainty associated with it. Passing the bar exam allowed me to move on to other areas in life.

I was admitted to the California State Bar 12 days after receiving the "successful applicant notice" and I now practice real estate law and estate planning with a lawyer friend who has 20 years of experience. I still keep my flying job because that is the job that brings in the "bread and butter."

In sum, studying law through the correspondence method requires great determination and self motivation but the reward can be sweet indeed.

Sincerely,
Alex Lin, Attorney at Law
Alumnus
747-400 Pilot
United Airlines



NWCU NOW OFFERS LEXIS-NEXIS SERVICES!

Northwestern California University is now able to offer LEXIS-NEXIS services to our Students and Faculty for the purposes of learning and teaching the law. LEXIS-NEXIS is an online legal, news and business information library. LEXIS is a full text legal information service providing an estimated 300,000 searches a day, from approximately 4,800 sources. The LEXIS service contains major archives of federal and state case law, continuously updated statutes of all 50 states, state and federal regulations and an extensive collection of public records from major U.S. states and counties. The LEXIS service has 40 specialized libraries covering all major fields of practice, including tax, securities, banking, environmental, energy and international. Convenient group files combine legal information from all jurisdictions and, where appropriate, add sources of relevant business, financial or general news.

The NEXIS service is a news and business information service, which contains more than 13,500 sources. These include regional, national and international newspapers, news wires, magazines, trade journals and business publications. The combined services contain more than 18,300 legal, news and business sources. More than 9.5 million documents are added each week to the more than one billion documents online. We are very excited to offer this service. We're confident that LEXIS-NEXIS services will be a valuable enhancement to our coursework.

If you would like access to LEXIS-NEXIS please call the NWCU catalog request line and leave your name and address to receive a LEXIS-NEXIS enrollment form. The form will contain information about gaining access to LEXIS-NEXIS. Please indicate whether you are a student or faculty member.

NWCU Catalog request line # (916) 922-9303

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trained in a law office or judge's chamber, or were not allocated to a particular law school for various reasons.

Overall, 39.1 percent of the applicants were taking the examination for the first time.

The three-day General Bar Examination is given twice a year, in February and July. The February 1998 test consisted of three sections: a multiple-choice Multistate Bar Examination (MBE), six essay questions, and two performance tests, designed to test an applicant's ability to apply general legal knowledge to practical tasks.

Northwestern California University is looking forward to receiving our pass rates from this recent exam. Be sure to look for them in an upcoming issue of NWCU JOURNAL.



The State Bar of California, the first bar in the country to establish a program for certifying legal specialists, announced earlier this year that 521 attorneys passed the August 24, 1997, Legal Specialist Examination. The overall pass rate was 62 percent.

Approximately 3,300 attorneys are certified by the State Bar as legal specialists. The bar created the certification program to help consumers find attorneys who have demonstrated ability and experience in specialized fields of law.

Attorneys can be certified in eight areas of law: appellate; criminal; estate planning, trust and probate; family; immigration and nationality; personal and small business bankruptcy; taxation; and workers' compensation.

To qualify as a certified specialist, an attorney must be an active member of the State Bar, have substantial experience in the field, pass a written exam, complete approved legal education programs, and be evaluated by judges and other attorneys.

The next written examination will be held in the late summer of 1999; application forms will be available after January 1 of that year.

Information about certification is available from the State Bar's Office of Certification, 100 Van Ness Avenue, 28th Floor, San Francisco 94102. Telephone 415/241-2100, e-mail maynardL@ix.netcom.com, or by visiting the State Bar's web site at www.calbar.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Saturday, June 27 , 9am Mock Baby Bar Review***
- **July 28- 30, California General Bar Exam.**
- **Saturday, Oct 3, 9am Mock Baby Bar Review***
- **Tuesday, Oct 6 First Year Law Students Exam.**
- **Every Thursday night classes are being held on Campus. For info please call (916) 567-5921.**

* Mock Baby Bar reviews are held on campus and are for any student who wishes to attend. The Review is essentially a practice exam in preparation for the First Year Law Students Exam. There is no fee for the review.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR LIFE???

We like to keep track of our alumni so that we can brag about all of your accomplishments. The Alumni News section provides the perfect opportunity for you to advertise your new job, family additions, award, publication, spectacular case, etc. Some words about your thoughts related to your law school education would also be appreciated. If you have a spare black and white photograph, we'd like to include it with your news items in the newsletter.

Be sure to let us know when your address changes, too. Please include the following information when sending in your personal story.

Name _____
Year of Graduation _____
Street _____
City/State/zip _____
Day Phone _____
Is this a new address? _____

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SCHOOL OF LAW
SACRAMENTO, CA
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