

NWCUCU JOURNAL

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MEET THE DEAN OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ROBERT GONZALEZ



Hello, I am the new Dean of Academic Affairs at NWCUCU. I am not entirely new to the school, as I have been a professor with NWCUCU since 1995.

I am a graduate of California State University, Sacramento. I received bachelor degrees in

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NWCUCU HAS JOINED THE WEBOLUTION!

We've been working very hard and are excited to announce that you can now visit Northwestern California University on the world wide web. Our address is WWW.NWCULAW.EDU. From this site you can download or print a catalog or application, see what's new at NWCUCU, read issues of NWCUCU JOURNAL and find useful law links.



Quotes to live by

"It is not the critic who counts, not the [person] who points out how the strong [person] stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done better.

"The credit belongs to the [person] who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly, who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends [oneself] in a worthy cause; who, at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who at the worst, at least fails while daring greatly, so that [their] place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

---Teddy Roosevelt

Meet the Dean of Academic Affairs continued from page 1.

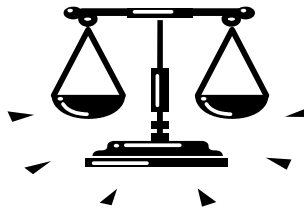
Accountancy, Economics, and Finance. After college, I decided to attend law school. I moved to Los Angeles and attended Loyola Law School. What an experience! While studying law, I received a Master of Business Administration degree from Loyola Marymount University. I took and passed the California Bar Exam and began practicing civil litigation prior to working full-time for NWCU. I am currently working on a Master of Laws degree and also teach Business Law at American River College in Sacramento.

Having attended a "traditional" law school, I can appreciate what NWCU's program and curriculum have to offer. It is fantastic to be able to "attend" law school without having to be physically present. I believe that "distance learning" is the wave of the future, as an ever-increasing portion of society becomes burdened with financial obligations, demanding careers, and families. For those who live and work in remote areas, far away from traditional schools, NWCU has given them the opportunity to study law which otherwise would be very difficult.

I commend all of you who are taking the initiative to improve yourself through education, while still balancing all of those other responsibilities. I am sure that you will find, if you haven't already, the study of law to be unusually challenging and endlessly absorbing. However, when you reflect upon your accomplishment someday, you won't be able to deny the rewarding and gratifying experience attained through the study of law.

Lastly, I would like to wish all students the best of luck on the upcoming October First Year Law Exam. If you have any questions regarding your studies, please call me personally at the school. Study diligently and good luck!

Sincerely,
Robert J. Gonzalez, Esq.
Dean of Academic Affairs



FROM THE BAR

SAN DIEGO ATTORNEY ELECTED AS NEXT STATE BAR PRESIDENT

SAN FRANCISCO, July 26 -- Calling for a restoration of pride in the profession, San Diego attorney Marc D. Adelman was elected today as the next president of California's 155,000-member-strong State Bar.

Adelman, 47, is the second sole practitioner in the State Bar's 70-year history to be chosen as president. A litigator with primarily business-and tort-related practice, he is also the third San Diego attorney to be elected president in 10 years.

Adelman's remarks to the bar's Board of Governors today focused on the theme of pride. "The pride that we demonstrate in our personal lives -- and that same pride we hold in our professional lives -- must be transfused into our common vision: our commitment to the preservation and improvement of our justice system," he said.

Adelman stresses the importance of educating the next generation of young lawyers on issues of professionalism and civility -- and providing them with strong role models. "It is incumbent upon each and every one of us to preach our values, undertake and advance more pro bono responsibility, and highlight professionalism and civility in everything we do," he said. "If we speak it, practice it and live it, we will improve our image in the eyes of the public."

Another one of Adelman's top priorities for his 1997-98 term will be to "implement and advance" a long-range strategic plan that addresses the needs of the profession, the public, and the judicial system "into the next century and beyond."

A few of his other goals include:

- Improving the bar's working relationship with the Supreme Court, the Legislature and the governor.
- Using whatever means available to assist in securing adequate trial-court funding for the judicial system.
- Demonstrating unwavering support for an independent judiciary.
- Addressing the immediate crucial issues facing the profession even when taking a stand, could spark controversy.
- Working to make the bar more "family-friendly" by taking into account family issues that affect attorneys.
- Seeking to improve the delivery of legal services to the poor.
- Curbing the unauthorized practice of law (UPL) in California.

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ALUMNI NEWS

We'd like to thank all Alumni who sent in their personal stories to share with us. Through your experiences we judge our success in providing quality education. Thank you for your contributions, and please keep the letters coming.

Every issue of NWCU Journal will have personal stories from our Alumni and students.



I wish to thank the faculty and staff once again for the tremendous, reasonably priced education I received at Northwestern California University (NWCU) School of Law. Shortly after graduating from law school, I was hired as a Court Executive for the Third District Court in Utah. I have remained in this position for three years, and have found that a law degree has provided me with additional standing in the courts.

I believe that Dean Clancey has correctly advised prospective students to attend a traditional law school if it is possible. However, in my personal situation, as a working parent unable to attend school during the day and with no evening law school in Utah, NWCU provided a viable and affordable opportunity for me to attend law school and achieve a lifelong goal of becoming an attorney. Furthermore, having attended another non-traditional law school prior to enrolling at NWCU, I believe NWCU is the best law school of its kind.

I have also found that once a law student graduates and is admitted to the bar, distinctions on where one attended law school become less important and performance on the job is the overriding factor. For me, passing the California Bar Examination validated the NWCU curriculum.

My Future plans are to become a corporate counsel and be admitted to the Utah Bar. Both of these objectives are achievable as a result of graduating from NWCU.

Please accept my gratitude for your assistance in helping me achieve my goal of becoming an attorney.

*Sincerely,
Larry D. Gobelman*



I completed my course of study at Northwestern in April, 1994. I took and passed the California State Bar examination in July, 1994. I had not taken the trouble of completing and submitting the moral character documentation. As a result, I was not admitted to the bar until June 1995. Bit of advice: Submit this moral character material toward the end of your last year of study.

I have been active in solo practice since November 1995. I [normally] have an office in San Luis Obispo, but live and work in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada for at least six months of each year since I remain on the faculty of the University of Alberta and must balance my duties at the University with law practice.

I devote about 12-15 hours a week to law. My practice is almost exclusively federal in focus, with about 80% dealing with immigration and the remainder to U.S federal agencies, e.g., U.S Customs, FDA and the Commodities Futures Trading Commission. I do some corporate, business and copyright law related to this federal practice. The majority of my clients are Canadian individuals or companies, with a smattering of clients from Asia and Africa. If I was to pigeonhole my practice it would be international/administrative law.

I am an advocate of identifying a legal niche and specializing [in it] since it is so hard to be a generalist and render competent service. Also, from a marketing standpoint a solo practitioner needs an identifying theme which sets him or her apart from the thousands of other lawyers.

I plan to take early retirement from my university position in about four years, gradually increasing my practice so that I am investing about forty hours per week. My focus will continue in the area of administrative law, with more attention to federal agencies and less to immigration. I will be moving my office to San Francisco, and opening an office in Seattle in two years. I may hire an associate in 1998.

My type of practice lends itself nicely to a "virtual" office existence, permitting me to operate anywhere

in the world. Much of my legal work is conducted with the assistance of CD Roms, internet links with LexisNexis, FAX and conference calls. I strive to keep court appearances, hearings and depositions which I must attend in person, particularly in geographically remote areas, to a minimum. I recommend the virtual office highly to the solo practitioner because of the high cost of office overhead.

Because of the specialized focus of my practice, the law school courses of greatest applicability were in administrative law, constitutional law and civil procedure. Everything else, e.g., immigration and customs law, I have had to pick up on my own. The American Immigration Lawyers Association has a good mentoring program, and offers a number of books, manuals and courses to develop expertise. These resources have been critical in my practice. Graduates of Northwestern might consider joining one of the Bar association sections for their CLE opportunities and to acquire mentors.

*Sincerely,
W. Andrew Harrell*



I was admitted to the Bar on June 3, 1997. Since then, I have been relaxing and recovering from the intensively tight schedule of studying while maintaining the family and caring for children.

After a trip to Asia, I wish to establish a small office working on international business law, estate planning, and immigration law.

I really love the legal profession. But I worked during the day in a law firm with heavy workload and had to take care of two young children at night without much family support. You provided me with the best available channel to get a legal degree under my overall conditions.

Aside from what's learned from law school passing the Bar Exam is directly related to the quantity and quality of time spent studying for the exam. In this regard, I found it useful to attend commercial preparation courses and to test myself on past bar exam questions.

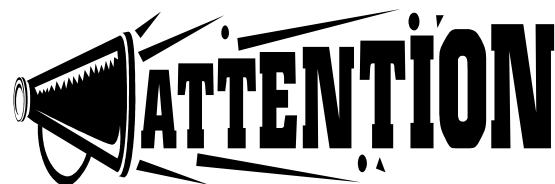
*Sincerely yours,
Hsiao Han Wang*

From the Bar continued from page 2.

Since joining the bar's Board of Governors in 1994, Adelman has served on committees and task forces dealing with such issues as attorney discipline, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), administration and finance, and the search for the bar's new executive director. He was on the committee which oversaw a recent revamping of the discipline system. And he spearheaded efforts to create the new ADR standing committee. Currently, he chairs the bar's Committee on Regulation and Discipline.

In 1989, Adelman served as president of the San Diego County Bar Association, and assisted in the purchase of its new state-of-the art center. He is a hearing officer for the San Diego County Superior Court, and has served as a judge pro tem for more than 15 years (in municipal court and, since 1990, in superior court). He has served on the advisory boards of the San Diego Law Center and of the Indigent Defense Advisory Board of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. And since 1979, he has been the producer and moderator of the judges' orientation program entitled "Bridging the Gap."

Adelman received his undergraduate degree from Western Illinois University in 1972 and his law degree from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego in 1977. In 1978, he was admitted to practice law in California. He will begin his term as State Bar president in September at the bar's annual meeting in San Diego. ♦



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

Newsletter Editor
Northwestern California University
Sacramento, CA

Distance learning doesn't always need to seem so distant!



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

DEAN'S MESSAGE

The study of law is, in actuality, the study of traditional and written rules of morality, passed down to us from our human predecessors. The study and practice of law is honorable. It is also quite necessary in the continued civilization of humanity. We need honest lawyers!

Public opinion about lawyers, and lawyer honesty, are issues before us. We must be mindful of the fact that the issues aren't new ones, though our involvement with them is of recent times.

The 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, more than a century ago wrote then that:

"There is a vague popular belief that lawyers are necessarily dishonest. I say vague, because when we consider to what extent confidence and honors are reposed in and conferred upon lawyers by the people, it appears improbable that their impression of dishonesty is very distinct and vivid. Yet the impression is common, almost universal. Let no(one) choosing the law for a calling for a moment yield to the popular belief---"
(emphasis added)

Mr. Lincoln went on:

"...resolve to be honest at all events; and if in your own judgement you cannot be an honest lawyer, resolve to be honest without being a lawyer."
(Abraham Lincoln, Notes for Law Lecture)

As we ponder over our own resolve, we should think about Lincoln's words, and *not yield to the popular belief.*

Michael P. Clancey
President and Dean

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

-Saturday, Oct 4 - Mock Baby Bar @ NWCUCU

-Tuesday, Oct 7 - Baby Bar

-Thursday, Oct 9 - Study Support Session for First Year Students @ NWCUCU

-Thursday, Oct 30 - Study Support Session

-Feb, 24,25,& 26 General Bar Exam

-Our recent classes have been a success! We will continue to have classes throughout the year. Call for details.

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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SACRAMENTO, CA
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