



DICTA

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JULY, 1987 BAR RESULTS

As you all know by now, the average pass rate on the July, 1987 Bar Exam was 50.3%. This is a substantial increase over the prior year's pass rate of 44.4%. It is also the first time the pass rate has been above 50% since the July, 1980 exam, when the rate was 50.2%. The rate had been steadily declining since 1974, when 61.7% of those taking the Bar passed.

Why the pass rate increase? The Bar Exam Committee attributes the rise to a new grading technique known as "scaling", which is applied to all portions of the test. The purpose of "scaling" is to ensure the test is equally difficult from year to year, and thus is fair to all applicants.

Some statistics: The top 3 California schools, and the only ones with first time takers' pass rates in the 80's, are Hastings-87.2%, Boalt Hall - 86.0%, and Stanford - 84.6%. SJCL had a first timers pass rate of 57.1%, and an applicant pass rate of 46.3%. These figures mean that SJCL ranked #1 among California accredited non-ABA approved schools in California.

In reaction to these results, Dean Pearson pointed out that SJCL had a higher pass rate than 3 of the ABA Schools in California-California Western Golden Gate and Whittier. To keep things in perspective, three unaccredited schools had better pass rates than SJCL: Cal. Northern - Chico 71.4%; Simon Greenleaf - 66.7%; and the University of Honolulu Correspondence School, whose sole taker passed, giving UOH a 100% pass rate. This allowed UOH to out-rank Harvard - 90.4% and Yale-85.0%.

The figures are fascinating, but one truth remains self-evident: there is no substitute for hard work and preparation when it comes to taking the Bar.

Figures taken from L. A. Daily Journal.

- Tamera Trindade

SJCL SWEATSHIRT SALE

School sweatshirts and coffee mugs will be on sale on Monday, February 1, 1988 before class. The goods are for sale through the Student Bar Association.

POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

During my four years of attending SJCL, I have found one aspect of a higher education remains a constant: higher costs.

Over the years at our school, various attempts have been made at fund raising, some successful, some not. Students participating in such activities have donated time and effort for a good cause, keeping the cost of our education within limits.

The SJCL Administration is also engaged in revenue raising ventures, ranging from wine tastings to letters asking SJCL graduates for support. Over the last few years, it appears that the administration has relied heavily upon the latter method of soliciting funds for our school. This may well reflect a problem in obtaining assistance from students in getting a project off the ground and following it through to completion. Although students are pressed for time between school and work, a solution may be quite simple: schedule projects during semester breaks.

With proper planning, projects could be set for time periods when students are out of class, and thus have evenings free. Project schedules could be set on a time table which would allow for organization to occur during the beginning of a semester. When students are not saturated with studies; execution of the project would take place later during a time when students could get involved. Alumni could act as advisors/participants thus increasing the pool of available volunteers.

The opportunities for fund raising are widespread, and if a tradition could be planted, it could grow over the years into a very fruitful venture. As several cases on point, one needs simply to look to Valley Children's Hospital and its programs. These include the VCH Guilds, and the Padrinos. The Fresno Arts also hold many activities, including its yearly "Carnival" benefit. If our school can begin some yearly traditional funding activities, we may be able to keep our educational costs bearable.

As a closing note, a few ideas to consider:

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POINTS AND AUTHORITIES, cont.

1. A winter black tie affair.
2. A spring wine tasting and jazz concert (New twist on an old theme.)
3. An alumni retreat.
4. Our very own guild program (It works for Valley Children's Hospital.)
5. A summer night out. (Differ the theme year to year.)
6. A back to school sale. (Alumni can donate and receive acknowledgement for their donations of library books and other materials SJCL needs.)

Remember, our school is young. If we can start traditions now, in the future we will all have something to be proud about.

- Todd Meek

(Editor's Note: "Points and Authorities" is an open forum by which students may express a written opinion or suggestion about SJCL. Submissions for the March and May issues of "Dicta" are invited.)

STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

In May, 1987, the student body was surveyed by the school to ascertain student views on SJCL, faculty, tuition and other information. Annette Leifer was kind enough to provide "Dicta" with the results of the survey.

The comments portion of the survey seems to show four consistent themes:

1) Students desire more school services, including non-credit writing courses and more electives. Students also expressed preference for better job placement services, student counseling, financial aid and a lounge area. Many students were critical of short library hours on Friday, Sunday and during exams.

2) A number of comments were made about physical facilities at school. The lack of adequate space for study groups was mentioned as well as noise problems in the hall. Some students noted the unimpressive nature of the physical facility, but only 13% of first year students felt negatively about it and it did not deter their choice of SJCL.

3) The need for a formalized grievance procedure was raised. Students were doubtful about the effectiveness of informal complaints to individual staff and expressed mixed views on whether or not the complaints were followed up on. Many comments seemed to indicate that the grievance procedure should allow for complaints about classes and faculty.

4) Students were critical of the Student Association. Two students objected to mandatory dues, calling the group "a joke" and suggesting that Student Association fees should be eliminated in favor of voluntary contributions or fund raising by the group.

The salary survey portion of the questionnaire was interesting. Second year law clerks averaged \$8.79/hour. For third year, the average was \$9.38/hour. The fourth year average was \$10.65/hour. This may be good ammunition to ask for a raise!

The statistical analysis was extensive. A few figures of interest are reproduced below:

- 66% of students believe SJCL has a positive community image.

- 35% of students believe evaluations of faculty are of little value and are unsure if anyone reads them.

- 74% of students say classroom/study space is limited or deficient.

- 84% say law school has caused them at least some financial hardship.

- 66% of students work full time.

Complete survey results are available from the "Dicta" staff. Making this survey a yearly event would give SJCL valuable student feedback.

- Ellen Jahn

SJCL UNDER SIEGE?

On January 4, 1988 at about 8:20 p.m., there was an attempted burglary of the SJCL offices. While in progress, the incident was discovered by several students who apprehended one suspect. The suspect was armed with a large knife.

In view of this event, coupled with a purse snatching, car break-ins and other suspicious activity, the school administration is looking into hiring a security guard for Monday through Thursday evenings. Students, faculty and staff should exercise caution to protect their personal safety.

DICTA DEADLINES

For March issue: March 4

For May issue: April 15

TEACHER PROFILE

Name: Richard M. Cartier

Professor of: Community Property, Family Law

I enjoy teaching at SJCL because: Teaching and law are both loves of my life. Being able to combine them is very rewarding.

The funniest thing that ever happened in class is: Well, the funniest thing must have been one of my jokes. There are so many, it's hard to pick just one.

If I couldn't teach Community Property/Family Law, I'd like to teach: Constitutional Law re: children/families. First amendment, family rights and privacy issues intrigue me.

The best advice I can give SJCL students is: Decide what is important, then go for it.

I knew I wanted to be a lawyer when: It became apparent I was too jaded to be a priest and not jaded enough to be a politician.

Before I went to law school I worked as: A teacher, grocery clerk, service station attendant, maintenance worker ...

Being a lawyer has taught me to: Appreciate the strategic importance of patience.

The craziest thing I ever did as a lawyer is: Show up in Judge Creed's department wearing painting clothes and tennis shoes.

If I couldn't be a lawyer, I'd like to be: An educator. If more people read, I would like to be a writer.

The best advice I ever got from a judge is: Learn who is the legal community can be trusted and strive to be one of them. (A lesson from Judge Fitch).

If I won the California Lottery I'd: Buy, or at least make a down payment on, a house at the coast.

Biggest regret: At the moment, I regret not being able to make more court appearances. (As an administrator with Fresno Unified School District, my days are taken.)

Best asset: My family and my sense of humor.

When I retire, I plan to: Keep doing things I enjoy. I may even set out on a new career.

Nobody knows: I really intend to quit smoking soon.

MOOT COURT NEWS

Congratulations to DeLoise Tritt and Todd Barsotti, winners of the 1987 George Hopper Moot Court Tournament. The best brief was written by Jane Smith. The second place brief award went to Robert Hurlbett.

SJCL will be sending teams to both the F. Lee Bailey and the Roger Traynor competitions. The Traynor team consists of DeLoise Tritt, Janet Maus and Jane Smith. The Bailey team is composed of Charla Harbottle and Sarah Schmidt.

Good luck to all!