

Dedication Ceremony Speech - Renee Galente '08

Thomas Jefferson School of Law's alumni defy definition. We are comprised of those who attended Western State University College of Law fighting hard to take part-time law classes at night while juggling jobs and family. We are comprised of those who transitioned from San Diego to Old Town, to become the first classes attending this institution as a full time law school in a red tile roofed stucco building. We are those alumni who saw ABA accreditation granted in 1995 and the school change its name to Thomas Jefferson School of Law. We are those who never knew how recently the move and the accreditation happened and only knew Old Town. We are those that transitioned back to Downtown, and associate the campus with dinosaur bones and innovative, cutting edge technology filled classrooms.

Different, we may be and different experiences we may have had, but in the end we share a common foundation built by this incredible law school, its unflagging and dedicated faculty and staff.

And if there is one thing the new downtown campus should symbolize to all of the alumni of Thomas Jefferson School of Law, it is that change is good. Thomas Jefferson School of Law does not let itself fall prey to an easy acquiescence. Instead, it constantly challenges itself to be better. To provide more for its students. With the new campus, the programming, the faculty and staff, we are what a law school is meant to be.

And so we alumni look forward to seeing each graduating class who has the advantage of this beautiful new campus, in conjunction with the quality education that TJS� has always provided, achieve more and more, increasing the name and reputation of TJS� into the legal community locally, nationally and internationally.

But we alumni also have a special place in our hearts for those on whose shoulders we stand, for those who helped pave our path into the profession.

And so it is with great pleasure that I announce that the Alumni Association has reinstated the process of honoring our alums who have so distinguished themselves as to be worthy of recognition on the school's Wall of Fame. Current Wall of Famers include Congressman Duncan Hunter, Judge Lillian Lim and Judge Lisa Guy-Schall.

Tonight, at the reception immediately following this event at the campus, we will install:

1. District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, as our outstanding practicing attorney
2. Commissioner Gary Bloch, as our outstanding judicial official
3. Leslie Alexander, the owner of NBA team the Houston Rockets, as our outstanding alternative use of a juris doctor

We hope you will join us on the second floor at 7:15 for this presentation and we, the alumni association, thank District Attorney Dumanis, Commissioner Bloch and Mr. Alexander for leading by example. You are the spark, you are the inspiration. Thank you.