Dean Hasl given lifetime achievement award from TJSL students
By DOUG SHERWIN, The Daily Transcript
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Thomas Jefferson School of Law Dean Rudy Hasl received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the school’s Student Bar Association Saturday.

“Dean Hasl has been a visionary leader for more than three decades and knows exactly how to build a law school’s good reputation, just as he has done at Thomas Jefferson,” said San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, a 1976 Thomas Jefferson graduate who helped present the award.

Hasl is currently the longest serving law school dean in the nation. He has achieved a total of 30 consecutive years as dean at Thomas Jefferson and three other ABA law schools, including Saint Louis University, St. John’s University and Seattle University.

During his career, he has built a successful track record in fundraising, capital improvement planning and oversight, and institutional reputation building.

“I am very honored to be recognized by the students for my work on behalf of legal education and the Thomas Jefferson School of Law,” Hasl said. “The students are the reason that we, as administrators and faculty, do what we do. The great satisfaction is knowing that we have made a difference in the lives of our students.

“What drives me every day is the thought of what this law school community can achieve -- and there is no limit to what we can achieve.”

Hasl has significantly increased the diversity of the Thomas Jefferson faculty and staff as well as the student population. He also has added several new and successful academic programs, including two summer study abroad programs in Hangzhou, China and Nice, France as well as three new LL.M. programs with an international focus.

Hasl has bolstered the academic support programs at TJSL that now begin as soon as a student is accepted and continue through success on the bar exam.

And, in what may become his most noteworthy achievement, Hasl shepherded the building of the school’s new eight-story downtown building that opened in January.

“Dean Rudy Hasl has changed the future of Thomas Jefferson School of Law,” said Student Bar Association President Jeremy Evans. “His vision, leadership and guidance have led our law school to new heights while continuing its growth both inwardly for students, faculty and staff and outwardly toward the community.”

San Diego County Public Defender Henry Coker (1985 graduate) and board trustee Randy Grossman (1994) presented the award along with Dumanis.

The Student Bar Association also recognized 1982 graduate Jon Epsten, founding shareholder in the community association and construction defect firm of Epsten Grinnell & Howell, with the “Professor A. Thomas Golden Honorary Thomas Jefferson School of Law Alumnus of the Year Award.”

Epsten was selected for this coveted annual award for his professional accomplishment, community service and ongoing commitment to the law school and its students.

Among the other TJSL award recipients Saturday were Associate Dean and General Counsel Jeff Joseph and Professors A. Thomas Golden, Leah Christensen, Susan Tiefenbrun and Kaimipono Wenger.