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HASTINGS LAW NEWS

San Francisco, California

January 13, 1998

Volume 31, Number 5



Hastings Graduates Hurtle State Bar

Ivo Labar
Editor

The Class of '97 achieved a 92 percent pass rate on the July bar exam, dramatically improving performance from earlier years and placing Hastings second among California law schools in terms of bar passage.

With a pass rate of 93.3 percent, U.C. Davis fared only slightly better than Hastings. However, it is the third time in four years that King Hall achieved the highest statewide bar success rate.

Hastings success rate has not been as consistent. Just two years ago it stood at 79 percent. After this rather dismal showing, school administrators made raising the bar passage rates at Hastings a priority. The increase should help Hastings ranking in various law school guides, notably the best vaunted U.S. News & World Report rankings, which use bar passage rates as one measure of a school's overall

performance. 337 Hastings students took the July bar, compared to 149 Davis students.

The rest of the state's 17 accredited law schools offered a mixed bag of results. Stanford placed third at 91.3 percent followed by University of San Francisco with a showing of 89.8 percent.

Our neighbor across the Bay, Boalt Hall, ranked sixth with a pass rate of 88.6 percent.

"92 percent of Hastings grads passed the July 1997 Exam, an increase in two years of nearly 15 percent"

At the bottom of the pack was newly accredited Thomas Jefferson School of Law,

where less than half of the graduates failed the test.

Statewide 80% of students at accredited law schools passed the test, compared to 63% of all testtakers. A total of 7,716 applicants attempted the July 1997 bar.

Initial statistics show that the pass rate for first time applicants was 80.2 percent for the 4,670 applicants who attended law schools accredited by the ABA, 48 percent of the 575 applicants from non-ABA approved schools and 43 percent of the 76 students who study at non-accredited schools, according to the California Bar Association.

The three day General Bar Exam is given twice a year in February and July. The July 1997 test consisted of three sections: a multiple choice Multi-State Bar Examination (MBE), six essay questions, and two performance tests, designed to test an applicant's ability to apply general knowledge to practical tasks.

Spring Checks Flow Freely

Ivo Labar
Editor

Spring financial aid disbursements proceeded smoothly this term, in marked contrast to last semester, when problems with new technology led to long delays for

many students.

Only a handful of students failed to receive their spring disbursements, according to Linda Bisesi, Director of Financial Aid. "Everything went extremely well," she said.

While lines were long in the

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Student Urges Move to Presidio

Nathan Ballard
SPECIAL TO LAW NEWS

The Presidio, a former Army base established more than two centuries ago, covers a spectacular, verdant 1480 acres at the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge. Currently, the Presidio needs tenants to fill its vacant buildings.

Meanwhile, in the crime-ridden neighborhood surrounding Hastings, law students suffer beatings on the street. Nearby, gunshots herald yet another Tenderloin murder. Around the corner, dealers sell drugs and prostitutes sell their bodies. And in 94102, the same zip code as Hastings, 189 resident sex offenders go about their daily lives.

All throughout next year, in these less-than-pleasant surroundings, Hastings students

must attend lectures in trailers on a half-block dirt parcel. At the same time, the administration will spend our money rebuilding the Hastings Tenderloin campus.

Construction plans should be brought to a halt.

The Presidio could provide a beautiful setting for a world-class law school. Hastings should permanently relocate to the Presidio.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Imagine yourself a college senior 25 years in the future. You are trying to decide whether to attend Hastings or Michigan. They have comparable rankings.

After attending a class, you stroll around the spacious, green Hastings Presidio campus. You lean against a Monterey Pine to gaze out at the Bay and the fog-crested Golden Gate Bridge. After a dip in the Hastings

swimming pool, some law students invite you to play touch football on the grass.

Later, you go to Beer on the Beach, now held at a real beach, Baker Beach, just a stone's throw away from the Hastings Presidio campus.

Sorry, Michigan.

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NEWS

State Bar Passage Rates

U.C. Davis	93.3%
Hastings	92.9%
Stanford	91.3%
U.S.F.	89.8%
U.S.C.	89%
Boalt	88.6%
Pepperdine	87.1%
U.S.D	84.8%
Loyola	84.1%
Santa Clara	83.6%
U.C.L.A.	82.8%
McGeorge	76.3%
Cal Western	74.7%
Golden Gate	70.3%
Whittier	67.9%
Southwestern	67.1%
Thomas Jefferson	45.9%

Financial Aid

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Louis B. Mayer lounge on Thursday, January 7th, the disbursements proceeded smoothly and by Friday afternoon there was virtually no waiting.

Spring disbursements traditionally are fraught with fewer problems, according to Bisesi, partly because the loans originate in the Fall.

Most of the long waits and frustration from last semester were the result of the school's switching to a consolidated Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) system. The federal semi-private corporation Sallie Mae, which administers Perkins and Stafford loans sent a written

acknowledgment of their responsibility for the lengthy processing delays. However, most of the bugs in the system have been worked out, according to Bisesi, and this should lead to fewer problems in the future.

Beside the difficulties in implementing the EFT system, Financial Aid staffers also had to deal with being displaced from their office while it was being renovated.

Next year's financial aid applications should be available in early February, said Bisesi. "The earlier we get your information the less likely it is that students will have problems," she said.

HASTINGS LAW NEWS

From Dialogue Comes Truth

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News, feature, and opinion articles are accepted from the community as large as well as students, but publication cannot be guaranteed. Prospective opinion writers should contact the editor-in-chief early in order to reserve space in the next issue.

The *Law News* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include the writer's phone number. If possible, materials should be submitted on disk. Long letters may be edited for length. Requests that names be withheld will be considered. Letters that have appeared on the Community Comment Board or are submitted anonymously will not be printed.

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NEWS

Presidio Site Good Option

Continued from page 1

A PRIME OPPORTUNITY

The Presidio will be taken over by the Presidio Trust in July 1998. Within 15 years, the Presidio Trust must wean the park from federal

support by leasing out its buildings. At the same time, the Trust must preserve the natural and historic character of the Presidio.

Hastings should seize this opportunity. As our rankings fall, Hastings needs to embrace bold ideas to remain competitive. Our ability to attract top students can only be enhanced by a move to the Presidio campus. Charming old buildings there could be renovated, and new buildings could be designed that honor the Presidio's natural and historic character.

For the first few years, the minority of Hastings students and faculty who now live in the 250

units of McAllister Tower could be shuttled to the Hastings Presidio campus by bus. When enough on-campus housing becomes available at the Presidio, the Tower could be used for new purposes.

A CONVENIENT LOCATION

The Presidio, with its fragrant Eucalyptus trees and rolling hills, adjoins a neighborhood of cafés, bookstores, boutiques, nightclubs and restaurants. Beaches, the Marina Green, Fort Mason, and the Exploratorium can all be reached on foot within minutes.

Our admissions brochure extols the virtues of our current Tenderloin location. "Hastings is no ivory tower law school," it reads. Our "uniquely situated" campus allows Hastings students to "see how government works, up close and personal."

A trailer in the Tenderloin may indeed be a unique situation.

But if we move to the Presidio, an inexpensive bus ride could deliver students to any location in San Francisco within minutes; the entire city measures a mere seven miles by seven miles.

The Hastings Presidio campus would still be just a few miles from the California Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court, the Bar Association of San Francisco Library, the Main Library, and the Civic Center's other assets. In other words, like the Tenderloin campus, the Hastings Presidio campus would still be close to the workings of the courts and government.

But unlike the Tenderloin, the Presidio area is safe.

For example, according to the Independent, the southern Tenderloin, South of Market, and Mission districts harbor nearly 600 convicted rapists, child

molesters, and other felony sex offenders. Twenty-one of them, considered by the state Justice Department to be violent, present a high risk of committing more sex crimes.

By contrast, the zip code closest to the Presidio, 94123, quarters only two registered sex offenders. Neither one can be identified as a "violent, high risk" offender.

HASTINGS CAN REMAIN COMPASSIONATE

If we move our classrooms to the Presidio, we need not leave our compassion behind. The Hastings Presidio Campus need not become an "ivory tower."

At the Hastings Presidio campus, committed law students could continue to work toward changing the conditions that plague the Tenderloin and other disadvantaged Bay Area

neighborhoods.

Hastings-related programs such as GAAP could still offer legal help to Tenderloin neighbors. Hastings volunteers would still be just a short bus ride away from soup kitchens, legal aid facilities, and AIDS clinics.

And, converted, the Hastings Tenderloin campus could serve the neighborhood anew as a home for a community college, a clinic, housing for the homeless, or a day care facility.

STOP THE CONSTRUCTION PLANS

Why waste another penny on the Tenderloin campus?

Stop the construction of the trailers. Stop the plans for the Tenderloin campus retrofit.

The difficulties facing Hastings require long term vision. Let's begin our move to the 21st Century by moving Hastings to the Presidio campus this fall.

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Ugh!--May 18th--First Day of Bar Review



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SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS

TWO DAY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

SANTA CLARA

- Saturday, February 14, 1998 - Noon - 6:00 pm
- Sunday, February 15, 1998 - Noon - 6:00 pm
- All seminars will be given free at the Days Inn, Great America, 4200 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, in the Carmel Room

SAN DIEGO

- Saturday, February 21, 1998 - Noon-6:00 pm
- Sunday, February 22, 1998 - Noon-6:00 pm
- All seminars will be given free in the Auditorium at the California Western School of Law, 300 Center St., San Diego

ORANGE COUNTY

- Saturday, February 28, 1998 - 9:00 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm-4:00 pm
- Sunday, March 1, 1998 - 9:00 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm-4:00 pm
- All seminars will be given free at Hope International University (formerly Pacific Christian College), 2000 E. National Ave. Comstock, Fullerton, Orange from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, February, Second Floor Room 208

LOS ANGELES

- Saturday, March 7, 1998 - 11:00 am-5:00 pm
- Sunday, March 8, 1998 - 11:00 am-5:00 pm
- All seminars will be given free at the Ramada Hotel, 6111 Bristol Parkway, Culver City, in the Protection Room

ORANGE COUNTY

- Saturday, March 14, 1998 - Noon-6:00 pm
- Sunday, March 15, 1998 - Noon-6:00 pm
- All seminars will be given free at Hope International University (formerly Pacific Christian College), 2000 E. National Ave. at Hope, Fullerton, Orange from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, March, Saturday and Sunday, Second Floor Room 208

VENTURA

- Saturday, March 14, 1998 - 10:00 am-4:00 pm
- Sunday, March 15, 1998 - 10:00 am-4:00 pm
- All seminars will be given at the Ventura College of Law, 447 Market Street, Ventura, Room 4 VIDEO PRESENTATION

FRESNO

- Saturday, March 14, 1998 - 9:00 am-3:00 pm
- Sunday, March 15, 1998 - 9:00 am-3:00 pm
- All seminars will be given at the San Joaquin College of Law, 901 7th St., Clovis, Room 201 VIDEO PRESENTATION

SACRAMENTO

- Saturday, March 14, 1998 - Noon-6:00 pm
- Sunday, March 15, 1998 - Noon-6:00 pm
- All seminars will be given at America's Books, 7291 Street, Sacramento, VIDEO PRESENTATION

RIVERSIDE

- Saturday, March 21, 1998 - Noon-6:00 pm
- Sunday, March 22, 1998 - Noon-6:00 pm
- All seminars will be held at California Southern School of Law, 1775 Ellsworth St., Riverside, Room numbers will be posted on the day of the seminar, VIDEO PRESENTATION

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For the past 25 years, Professor Fleming has developed his legal career through the development of legal preparatory seminars designed solely to aid Law Students and Bar Candidates in exam writing techniques and substantive law.

Professor Fleming's experience includes the Lecturing of Pre-Law School Prep Seminars and First, Second and Third Year Law School Final Reviews. He is the Organizer and Lecturer of the Baby Bar Review Seminars and the Founder and Lecturer of the Legal Examination Writing Workshop. Both are seminars involving intensive exam writing techniques designed to train the law student to write the superior answer. He is the Founder and Lecturer of LongShort Term Bar Review. In addition, Professor Fleming is the Publisher of the Performance Exam Solution and Multistate Examination Workbook, the creator of the Exam Solution Tape Series, which aids law students in exam preparation, the Author of the First Year Essay Examination Writing Workbook, the Second Year Essay Examination Writing Workbook, and the Third Year Essay Examination Writing Workbook. These are available in legal classrooms throughout the United States.

Professor Fleming has determined that the major problem for most law students is weak analytical skills. Most students can learn the law, but application of the law is a stumbling block under exam conditions. Professor Fleming has structured his programs to include both substantive law and legal analysis training. This provides the combination necessary for the development of a more well-prepared and skilled law student and bar candidate. These courses have made it possible for thousands of law students to improve their grades and ultimately pass the Bar exam.

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