

Here is what my students say.

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December 16, 2008

David Stallings  
Dean  
West Coast School of Law  
7837 Danvers Street  
Downey, California 90240

Dear Dean Stallings,

Thank you for providing the Juris Doctor Bar program at West Coast School of Law that gave me the opportunity to complete my goals of obtaining a legal education and passing the California Bar Examination.

West Coast School of Law (WCSL) has made it possible for me to advance toward achieving my long held desire to become an attorney. In the State of New Mexico, where I currently reside, there is only one law school with a small annual complement of students. Being a former US Marine and federal retiree who was beginning the study of law in my 60's, I was not the kind of applicant the law school was seeking. A distance learning school seemed to be my only option other than relocating to another state. WCSL provided the opportunity for me to accomplish my goals while remaining in New Mexico.

I found the course materials provided by WCSL to be straight forward and easy to follow. I enrolled in WCSL as a Bar student after completing two years of law study at another California distance learning school and after having passed the first year law student exam. The course study material provided by WCSL was a welcome change after I had struggled through the sometimes incomprehensible course guidance and rambling video tapes I had obtained from the previous school. At WCSL, I easily determined which books I needed to obtain for each course and what sections of the books were required reading or otherwise important for completion of the course. The material enabled me to understand, among other things, that I had to have a good working knowledge of black letter law, that I had to be able to identify issues and elements from the presented facts in hypotheticals, and that I had to be able to summarize my findings in an IRAC format. The course material recommended by WCSL presented difficult subjects such as Civil Procedure in a very organized manner enabling me, with a significant study effort, to gain a thorough understanding of the subject matter. Furthermore, the Dean of WCSL was always easily reachable via phone, mail, or e-mail for any questions.

WCSL provides a reasonably priced program, which can allow a self disciplined individual to obtain a legal education and successfully complete the Bar exam. I felt completely prepared and competent to take the California Bar Examination following my study at WCSL. I had no difficulty answering any of the exam essay questions or completing the performance exam. I was successful on my third try at the bar exam, and I attribute my success in part to the excellent guidance provided by WCSL and in part to my own determination. After each bar exam, I resumed my studies using the WCSL materials and guidance to solidify my knowledge and to constantly improve my writing ability and MBE scores. During this time, I underwent cancer surgery and the concern about this event may have affected my exam performance. Following the surgery and recovery, I again began studying using the WCSL recommended material and successfully completed and achieved a passing score on the February 2008 California Bar Examination. The cost of the program at WCSL is lower priced than the previous school I attended and the material provided is a significant improvement.

The study materials and coursework completion requirements of WCSL are not easy. Completion of the program at WCSL can provide a determined individual who is committed to study with a legal education, which in my opinion, may equal or surpass that which can be obtained at some fixed-facility law schools. While attending WCSL, I studied law many more hours than the 864 hours per year required by the Unaccredited Law School Rules. Following the guidance WCSL provided, I read numerous law books and law outlines in whole or part, I listened to hundreds of hours of audio tapes sometimes two, three, and four times over, I completed thousands of MBE questions, I wrote hundreds of practice exams including performance exams, I prepared thousands of 5"x 7" flash cards and used them to memorized black letter law including issues and elements, and I developed and memorized 14 law subject issue check lists containing outside and inside checklists. Additionally, I reviewed every California Bar Examination and released answer from 1974 to 2007. Based on discussions I had with several graduates of fixed-facility law schools, I felt that I had an equal or better understanding of the subject matter than they did. In preparation for the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE), I used the same learning and study techniques from WCSL that I had used for the bar exam. My scaled score on the August 2008 MPRE was 124. This score is well above the nationwide average scaled score of about 98 and the State Bar of California requirement of 86.

In summary, WCSL enabled me to obtain what I feel is an excellent legal education without relocating, at a very reasonable cost. This education was a key element in my achieving passing scores on the California Bar Examination and the MPRE.

Very truly yours,

Roger St. Hilaire

Dear Dean of West Coast School of Law,

I recently passed the February 2008 California Bar Exam, after completing my degree at West Coast School of Law.

The school provided a framework for a good legal education that provided amazing flexibility and outstanding preparation for the California Bar.

West Coast School of Law provided excellent teaching materials, responsive guidance from its instructors, and a philosophy that really prepared me for the rigors of studying for the California Bar.

Thank you very much for providing this outstanding program.

--Ted

Ted Shab, JD, Member of the California Bar

April 26, 2007

From: Jose M. Gomez

To: Peter Laughlin, Author, The Law School Bible  
David Stallings, Dean, West Coast School of Law

RE: PASSING THE BAR!

Dear Mr. Loughlin and Dean Stallings:

I want to thank you for all of your help in passing the D.C. Bar Examination. The following is a story of the road less traveled.

In 2001, shortly after I finished undergraduate school, I applied to five ABA law schools and received rejections from all of them—mostly because I scored in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on the Law School Admissions Test. I took the LSAT again that summer and reapplied for admission to same law schools, and, once again, received five rejections.

These rejections seemed to me as though a certain door to my dream of becoming an attorney were closed. After doing some research on the internet, I found a book called the Law School Bible by Peter Loughlin. In the book, he described alternatives to ABA law schools that are available to those students who are not given the opportunity to attend a traditional law.

One alternative was the Massachusetts School of Law in Andover, Massachusetts (MSL). It is a school that is authorized by the Massachusetts legislature. I applied to MSL and was admitted for the Fall 2003 Semester. I moved to Massachusetts from Texas without even visiting the school beforehand because this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. At the end of the semester I received a C+ average, but I could not stay in Massachusetts for financial reasons. I returned to Texas and looked for other options.

I found that Thomas M. Cooley Law School, an ABA law school in Michigan, would allow me to transfer credits from MSL. I also found out that I would be given full financial assistance for my tuition and room and board. I was admitted to the 1L class for the Fall 2004 Semester. Several months later, I received notice that I was on academic probation because my average was below a C (2.0 G.P.A.). I was informed that I would have two semesters to bring my average to a 2.0 or greater. My academic advisor advised me that I should consider looking into a different profession. After a lot of hard work and effort, I received a 1.99 G.P.A. two semesters later and was academically dismissed. I was now right back to where I started, but with over \$40,000 in debt, 60 semester credits and an academic dismissal on my record.

I called Mr. Loughlin about my situation, and we discussed another alternative. I could enroll in a non-ABA law school and use the credits I had earned at Cooley Law School to apply for admission by examination to the D.C. Bar. Afterwards, I called Dean Stallings at West Coast School of Law and discussed admission to WCSL. He informed me that I could enroll and transfer all of the credits from Massachusetts School of Law and Cooley Law School. I enrolled at WCSL and, within a year's time, I graduated from West Coast School of Law with Juris Doctorate. I then applied for admission by examination to the D.C. Bar in July 2006. The results were not what I expected. I needed five points to pass the examination. Once again, I took the bar exam in February 2007.

Yesterday, I decided that I would check the D.C. Bar website, [www.dcbar.org](http://www.dcbar.org), to see if I had passed. I looked down at the list of successful applicants, and I saw my name "Gomez, Jose M."

I could not believe it. I passed!

I must mention that I would not have been able to make it this far without the help of Mr. Loughlin and Mr. Stallings. Without people like Dean Stallings and Mr. Loughlin, I would not have achieved my dream of becoming an attorney.

I would like to acknowledge Mr. Loughlin and Dean Stallings for their efforts in helping me and many others achieve our dream of becoming attorneys.

Sincerely Yours,  
Jose M. Gomez, Esq.

June 7, 2008

Dear Mr. David Stallings,

I'd like to thank you for the education that your school provided me with. Currently, I own and run a company called OAL Inc ([www.ouranimelife.com](http://www.ouranimelife.com)), which produces an online television series. The Juris Doctor degree that I finished at your school has saved me time and time again.

From legal copyrights to trademarks to contract and liability issues, I have been able to use what I've learned to protect my rights and my company's. I look forward to hearing about more students graduating from your school as you are providing a much needed service for this country.

It is quite amazing how many laws need to be learned, but how little time there is for many of us to actually sit in at a law school and learn them.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you a thousand times!

Sincerely,  
Harry Hsu, J.D.

Dear Mr. Dean,

I just opened and read the e-mail. I am staying in Korea but I do not understand what the Bar wish to do. It is definite that Mr. Stallings is the living legend among correspondence students, which is the reason why I chose WCSL without any hesitation. You are the one who must not be discouraged or depressed at any time. I do not wish the legend disappears and strongly ask you to keep your way and continue spreading your merciful ideas to indigent but dreamful prospective students.

I will have my fingers crossed.

Best Regards,

Hany Kim

Honorable Ronald M. George, Chief Justice  
and Associate Justices  
Of the California Supreme Court  
350 McAllister Street  
San Francisco CA 94102-4797

RE: West Coast School of Law

Honorable Justices:

I am a satisfied graduate of West Coast. This letter is to express my support for the Bar's continuing registration of the West Coast School of Law and, as an alternative

to the Committee of Bar Examiners criticism of West Coast's management, to offer a few suggestions regarding the management of the State Bar.

In spring of 2004, I became the first graduate of West Coast and then became its first attorney alumnus when I passed the July 2004 Bar Exam on my first attempt. About five months after my swearing-in, I won for a client in a ballot argument case enough CCP 1021.5 attorney's fees to pay for my wedding. My client's opponents were the City of National City and several well connected government activist. Both groups were represented by very experienced legal counsel. My successful motion to exclude our opponents' hearsay evidence was important to my winning that case. The legal subject of Evidence was something I learned during my studies at West Coast. While I've never felt ill prepared against my traditionally educated opponents, I have felt slighted by the Bar's management.

Given that the article, "Studying the Law – Anywhere", is on the front page of the current edition of the *California Bar Journal*, I'm surprised that the Bar's management is continuing to attack non-traditional legal education. The high praise that article gives to the concept of distance education hasn't rubbed off on the Committee members reviewing West Coast, apparently. Perhaps they're not reading their own *Journal*?

I say "attack" because I've heard of the shabby treatment the non-traditional law schools have received from the Bar, despite these schools are authorized under the laws of this state. A faculty member of one non-ABA school (not Mr. Stallings) told me that Mr. John Rodriguez is someone who has a history of a less than favorable attitude towards California's non-traditional law schools. I also know from my own personal experience that Mr. Rodriguez's uneven temperament extends to those schools' students.

In late November, 2004, shortly after I received the good news of my passing the bar exam, I received the bad news that the Bar still had no record of my passing score on the MPRE! The never disputed facts show that I taken and passed the MPRE months earlier, and my score was duly sent to the Bar by the NCBE, and also that both Dean Stallings of West Coast and I had also separately sent copies of my passing score in about September of 2004. But the Bar still did not update its records nor seek additional information from either me or West Coast nor did the Bar indicate to either of us of any problem.

The problem, as I only later found out, was my birth-date wasn't correct on the records received from the NCBE. The Bar was ONLY correlating NCBE records with the birthdays of students in its data base. It was probably my fault that NCBE had an incorrect birthdate. But the Bar had received from NCBE, along with my score, my correct name, address, and social security number, yet still couldn't "find" me in its records! While the problem persisted for months at the Los Angeles Bar offices (then under Mr. Rodriguez's management) before I was aware of it, and then for days thereafter, it was cleared up in mere *seconds* when I called the Bar's San Francisco offices. There they immediately found my MPRE score by looking at the NCBE data and using my social security number. (At that time, and maybe still, the Bar was using each student's social security number as the student's ID number. This might be illegal

because SSN's are specifically not be used as a form of identification. Furthermore, the Bar's use of SSN's as student "bar number" is inappropriate because, as shown below, the Bar isn't very adept at data management, and inept safeguarding of SSN's leads to identity theft.)

Why did it require an exorbitant effort on my part just to get proper credit for my MPRE score? The Bar had, just in the NCBE information alone, the ability to match up any 'orphan' scores with its respective law student. For the student, the resulting MPRE score is the work product of many hours of study, not to mention the time and stress required to pass the test and the hundreds of dollars spent for the exam fee. Why, when a score does not match up with any student's birthday, doesn't the Bar, in recognition of the personal and financial cost and importance of that score to the student, at least *try* to match up the NCBE's recorded name, address or SSN with the Bar's own records? Even failing that, in my case, why didn't the Bar act on the correspondence it received from both Dean Stallings and me? It's clear to me, based upon my various telephone conversations with Mr. Rodriguez, and a few of his snide remarks and general lackadaisical attitude (both of which were obvious) about my plight, that neither he nor his staff felt that non-traditional law students deserved to be treated in a professional or helpful way. (Fundamentally, the whole idea of connecting MPRE scores to students based solely on birthdates defies common sense and good management practices because the probability of two or more students with the same birth date, and hence creating confusion, is statistically far more likely than having two or more students with the same names). Frankly, my above experience indicates that an overall review of the management practices of the Bar be conducted before any such review of any law school.

I suggest that, both as a cost cutting measure and to achieve greater efficiencies, the Southern California branch offices of the State Bar be closed and all its activities consolidated in the Bar's San Francisco offices. Today, with faxes, email, and cheap telephone long distance readily available, there is no need for a redundant and/or ineffective satellite office. Also, I request that all directors and managers of the Bar, whether they be licensed attorneys or not, be required to adhere to the same level of professionalism and ethics the Bar requires of all attorneys. In particular, I suggest that Mr. John Rodriguez's management performance be closely scrutinized, especially his commitment and adherence to, California Business and Professions Code Sec. 6060, et. seq., and whether he has been demonstrating a suitable level of enthusiasm and professionalism to law students of all stripes, so as to determine whether he is a proper representative of the State Bar and, ultimately, this Court.

Finally, I request that this Court consider the stated goals of the State Bar, namely, to serve the administration of justice, serve the public, and to serve its attorney members, and whether the Committee of Bar Examiners' are reviewing West Coast in accordance with those goals, or to achieve some other objective. As my first time passage of the bar exam and my practical experience shows, my West Coast education is at least as good as that received by many ABA-approved law school students. As the above referenced *Journal* article explains, non-traditional law schools allow non-traditional law students to become lawyers for the betterment of both the students themselves and those segments of society they will be serving. These non-traditional law schools, however, also have non-traditional challenges for all concerned. Therefore, to

the extent that West Coast may be deficient in any way, the Committee must be required to endeavor to work together with West Coast to fix those deficiencies with no less than the same level of professionalism, enthusiasm, and helpfulness it would show the most prestigious law school in the state, if that school were suffering from the same or similar deficiency.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward M. Teyssier, Esq.

cc:

Dean Stallings,  
c/o West Coast School of Law  
7837 Danvers Street  
Downey, CA 90240

The Committee of Bar Examiners of  
The State of California,  
Office of Admissions  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-1639

Dear Dean Stallings

I just want to let you that I passed the Bar Exam. Thanks for all your help and support. I could not have done it without your support and the existence of West Coast School of Law. Your School has allowed someone like me, with limited financial means and a full time job, this opportunity. Please feel free to use my comments for the benefit of your School.

Please stay in touch and I look forward to any advice and support you can give as I move forward in my Law Career. I value your experience and knowledge and look forward to talking with you if you have any questions or comments. My cell phone number is 562 889-6898.

Sincerely  
Bill T. Klein  
Student ID# 05-01-06

V3

David Stallings  
[cclawschool@earthlink.net](mailto:cclawschool@earthlink.net)  
EarthLink Revolves Around You.

He who opens a school door, closes a prison. ~Victor Hugo

Every time you stop a school, you will have to build a jail. What you gain at one end you lose at the other. It's like feeding a dog on his own tail. It won't fatten the dog. ~Mark Twain