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NEWS

RULINGS

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Friday, January 8, 2016

Law School Association admits UCI

Law

The Association of American Law Schools added UCI to its ranks

By Steven Crighton

The Association of American Law Schools on Thursday admitted University of California, Irvine School of Law to its ranks following a vote by the group's House of Representatives.

Blake D. Morant, AALS' president and dean of The George Washington University Law School, said that UCI Law met or exceeded the values required for admission to the association, including a strong academic record, diversity, and a commitment to scholarship, among others.

Morant said the school's admission was particularly impressive, considering how recently it launched. UCI Law opened its doors in 2009, the first new public law school to open in California in more than 40 years.

"Usually with a brand new law school, it takes them a while to build up their reputation and getting their various programs to match our ideals," Morant said. "UC Irvine has certainly done that in a remarkably short period of time."

UCI Dean Erwin Chemerinsky said the school's curriculum and values aligned closely with the requirements for AALS admission, which meant they hit the ground running from the moment the school's doors opened.

Still, he said, admission didn't come easily. A school must receive accreditation from the American Bar Association a year before they can be considered. ABA accreditation itself requires a school to graduate five classes before consideration, which the school accomplished in 2014.

AALS membership requires schools to undergo a rigorous vetting process that involves detailed reports, on-site inspections, and three votes by three separate entities within the association.

The final vote on Thursday was unanimous in favor of UCI Law's admission. It is the 179th school to join the non-profit association, which was founded in 1916 to "uphold and advance excellence in legal education," according to the group's website.

"It's a wonderful milestone for the law school," Chemerinsky said. "I really got goosebumps from everyone cheering us on."

Upon admission, UCI Law becomes a full voting member of the association's House of Representatives, and can now participate in various leadership and enrichment opportunities at the association's disposal. Admission into the association, whose members enroll the majority of the nation's law students, also serves as a "seal of approval" for law schools, Morant said.

"Any school that is admitted is seen as a law school that truly is of high quality in

Discipline

Former LA presiding judge pleads no contest to felony assault

Former Los Angeles County Superior Court presiding judge James Bascue pleaded no contest Friday to felony assault with a deadly weapon on a police officer and was sentenced to five years' probation with 500 hours of community service and a prohibition on possessing firearms, drinking, driving, and using certain prescription drugs.

Government

Governor Brown increases judicial budget

Governor Jerry Brown increased spending on the court system by \$146.3 million in his proposed budget for 2016-17.

Litigation

Gov. Brown throws monkey wrench in copyright suit

The monkey behind the one of the world's most famous photos will have another day in court, after a federal judge Wednesday issued a tentative ruling that he intended to dismiss with leave to amend a copyright lawsuit filed by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals on behalf of the primate.

Education

Complaint against Thomas Jefferson over job numbers is going to trial

A lawsuit filed by debt-burdened Thomas Jefferson graduates against the school is heading to trial.

Litigation

State of emergency may bolster gas leak claims

Gov. Jerry Brown's order to marshal state resources toward stopping the Aliso Canyon underground well breach could help plaintiffs seeking relief.

Broadcom gender, retaliation case looks headed to a jury

Judge schedules October trial after rejecting Broadcom Corp.'s partial motion to dismiss

Education

terms of its educational program," Morant said.

The addition was announced during the 2016 AALS Annual Meeting in New York City, which runs from Jan. 6 to Jan. 10. The event is the world's largest gathering of law deans, faculty and staff, according to the association, featuring over 800 speakers presenting at more than 200 sessions on a wide range of legal topics.

UCI Law graduated 109 students in its May 2015 class. Currently, 334 students are enrolled at the school.

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Law School Association admits UCI Law
AALS' president said the admission is impressive considering the school opened in 2009

Criminal

Ladera Heights doctor sentenced in prescription drug scam

A doctor's prescription pad was a blank checkbook for a cartel of crooks who billed federal and state medical programs for \$20 million in bogus prescription drug claims.

Environmental

Environmentalists sue Riverside County alleging its long-term development plan violates CEQA

The county failed to properly look at the impacts from new development, the loss of open space and agricultural land and air quality, suit claims.

U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit 9th Circuit sides with alcohol

manufacturers in free speech case
The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals instructed a federal judge Thursday to reconsider a state law intended to curb a "perceived evil" of alcohol manufacturers exerting control over stores that sell their products.

Ethics/Professional Responsibility North Hollywood lawyer blasted by

appellate court in sanctions ruling
The 2nd District Court of Appeal sanctioned a self-represented lawyer \$5,000 Wednesday for pursuing a frivolous appeal, citing the lawyer's "bad faith" and "bizarre conduct" during proceedings.

Litigation

Redlining litigation stayed pending 9th Circuit decision

Four state court suits alleging predatory lending practices by Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, Citigroup and Wells Fargo will await the outcome of similar claims at the federal level.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Rex A. Heeseman
JAMS Los Angeles

U.S. Supreme Court

Alaska's land and water go to court

John Sturgeon's 2007 lone hunting trip in the Alaskan wilderness has escalated into a battle over state sovereignty and the reach of federal bureaucracy that has reached the nation's high court. By **Ethan W. Blevins and Damien Schiff**

Bankruptcy

Court says assignee may not file for bankruptcy