

Western State law school alumni raise funds for final graduation

By Erin Lee

Daily Journal Staff Writer

Although Western State College of Law's future remains uncertain, students and alumni are working to raise the funds necessary to put on a graduation ceremony next month.

After Argosy University, the law school's parent, went into a federal receivership in March due to financial troubles, the law school was

in danger of shutting down in the middle of the semester. A March 19 court order, however, ensured the law school will at least be funded through May 29, allowing students to finish out the semester. But the necessary tuition funds to pay for graduation were not allocated.

That's when San Bernardino attorney William D. Shapiro, who graduated from Western State in 1978 and is an adjunct faculty member, stepped in. He found out the

ceremony had been canceled about a month ago and donated money to pay for the venue at City National Grove of Anaheim. The ceremony will be held on May 18.

"There had to be a graduation because these students have worked hard for three to four years," he said. "They and their families deserve that pinnacle, they deserve that celebration of success. It's a moment that they worked hard for, it's a moment they deserve. I want-

ed to make certain that that happened."

The student graduation committee started a GoFundMe to cover additional costs, including diplomas, programs and regalia. The fundraiser had raised \$4,800 of its \$15,000 goal as of Monday.

"This hard working and gracious group of aspiring legal professionals have not only spent three to four years working hard on their legal degrees, but have spent two

months fighting to keep Argosy's mistakes from robbing them of their success," the graduation committee wrote.

The law school is currently looking for a permanent buyer, separate from the rest of Argosy University's campuses, and Shapiro, who is involved with discussions, said he's optimistic.

"I'm convinced that it's going to work," he said. "We'll know by graduation."

Law school staff have been supportive of graduation efforts, he added.

"What happened to the school was not the school's fault or the students' fault," he said. "There's a ton of pride that these kids have, having endured this period of uncertainty. They're still connected, and they stayed focused to do well in their studies during a very turbulent time."

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Longtime San Francisco magistrate judge announces retirement

By Malcolm MacLachlan

Daily Journal Staff Writer

U.S. Magistrate Judge Elizabeth D. Laporte, an expert in patent law

than 750,000 residents the same power to bring unfair competition cases as a state attorney general.

In her complaint, she argued the cartoon character was used to

torney father and grandfather. But she knew just one female attorney while growing up.

After graduating from Princeton University, she took a job at the

vertising laws to file the litigation that led to most unpasteurized milk being taken off store shelves in California.

She later spent five years as an

District Judge Marilyn H. Patel. But the roster of cases there had changed during her 15 years away.

"When I clerked [with] Judge Patel, I don't think we had a sin-

her she was considered an expert in the topic.

While she hears a wide variety of cases, technology patent cases are still part of the San Francisco