



**Los Angeles Mission College**

**Pathway to Law School**

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# Mission College

## History of Pathway to Law School California LawInc PPT (pdf)

- A. Founded in 1975
- B. Serves approx. 10,000 students
- C. Demographics
  - As of Fall 2012, 61% female, 39% male
  - Median age: 22 years old
  - Mexican-American or Chicano: 37%
  - Hispanic Other: 37%
  - White: 12%
  - Asian: 7.2%
  - Black: 5.2%
- D. Designated Hispanic Serving Institution
- E. Median time to transfer in years
  - UC system: 4-Black; 3-Asian, Hispanic, White
  - USC: 6- Hispanic

# **Paralegal Program**

- **In place since 1987 (28 years)**
- **Both completely on campus program and online - since 2002 (13 years)**
- **On campus classes are hybrid (part on campus/part online)**
- **Vocational programs consisting of 12 classes/36 units – exceeds 24 semester units required by State**
- **Certifies California Paralegals pursuant to BPC 6400/6450**
- **Faculty are attorneys and specialize in their area of law**
- **250 students enroll per year; 50 students graduate every Spring**

# Pathway to Law School – 1<sup>st</sup> Year Implementation

## Setting the Foundation – Building Bridges

### Successes

1. Established Law Club – approx. 25-30 members; 10-15 active participants
2. Formed Law Advisory and held 2 meetings – Fall 2014 & Spring 2015 – membership includes local Bar Assoc., law academies, college admin, students
3. Established Resource Center (Library Room 217) – venue for interviews, mentoring, assistance with personal statements; 15 one-on-one interviews were held
4. Reached out and established connections with Loyola Law and USC Law School
5. Held Law Day at USC Law School in Spring 2015 – 15 LAMC students and 35 San Fernando High School students attended, included a law school class, tips for success (with Niles Pierson – Riverside CC – featured in [Calbardream.org](http://Calbardream.org) video )

## **Successes – continued**

6. Hosted Fulbright Scholar from Argentina – Federico Efron, Human Rights Attorney
7. 4 Students admitted to Law School for Fall 2015 – Hastings (Gabriela Miranda received 2 scholarships: Calif. Bar Foundation and Sidley and Austin), Florida Coastal, Glendale College of Law, University of West Los Angeles (UWLA) and Glendale College of Law and 5 anticipated for Spring 2016.
8. Law Academies at 2 Local High Schools – San Fernando, Northridge – 3 classes taught by Law Faculty / 130 students. 3 additional High school law classes planned Spring 2016, Monroe, Valley Academy of Arts & Sciences, and Francis Polytechnic.
9. Developed comprehensive Pathway webpage – see <http://lamission.edu/law/pathways>

# Accreditation Language on Pathway

The Pathway to Law is mentioned in our Self-Study to be submitted for review and approval by ACCJC in their March 2016 Accreditation visit to Los Angeles Mission College

Here is the language from the Self Study

*Additionally, as an example of a targeted transfer effort, the College participates in the initiative “Community Colleges Pathway to Law School”. Through the Paralegal studies program on campus, students receive assurances that credits in prescribed courses will transfer, are exposed to the law school experience, receive individual advisement and mentoring from law school advisors, financial aid counseling, LSAT preparation and waived application fees for admission to the participating law schools*

**Kelly William Enos**  
**Co-Chair – Accreditation**

# Challenges and Opportunities

1. Need to broaden pool of potential Pathway students and reach out earlier
2. Need to work towards LSAT success; students under-prepared
3. Law Schools need to have data on students who started CC
4. Reach out and develop partnerships with 4 year UC/CSU – develop partnership with CSUN [Business Law Program 3+3 with Southwestern Law School](#)

# **Pathway Program: Plans for Fall 2015/Spring 2016**

- 1. Co-host “So Cal Pathway Summit” with Loyola Law – include So Cal CCs and high schools – will include application workshops, LSAT tips, etc.**
- 2. Encourage active participation of Law Club Members – create “Pathway Ambassadors” to outreach to community including Teen Courts at San Fernando HS and Northridge Academy and LA Superior Court Internships.**
- 3. Work with Loyola and USC to host symposiums, i.e. Sports Law And Fashion Law**
- 4. Add 3 additional high school law academies: Monroe, Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences and Francis Polytechnic**
- 5. Continue community outreach activities.**
- 6. Develop DUI Education Awareness through “Every 15 Minutes” and “MADD” collaboration for each fall semester, to rotate through participating high school law academies – DUI manslaughter defense mock trial each spring semester in collaboration with LAMC Law club/Paralegal Program/AJ Program and high school law academies**



## **Pathway Plans continued**

- 7. Law Club to sponsor Spring panel of LAMC Alumni who are current law school students**
- 8. Visit classroom students in History, Political Science, and Communication Studies to promote membership in LAMC Law Club and participation in Pathway activities.**
- 8. Host Fulbright law speaker**

# **Focus areas**

- 1. Need to develop Street Law Curriculum**
- 2. Need closer link to academic disciplines, i.e. history, political science, communication studies**
- 3. Increase Law Club membership**
- 4. Strengthen connections with high schools and LAMC transfer center**
- 5. Strengthen connections with UC/CSU – develop articulation with Cal State Northridge Business Law 3+3 program with Southwestern Law school**
- 6. Identify funding sources for Pathway**

## **Spotlight on Pathway Scholars**

[\*\*Gabriela Miranda, Ray Gosen, Jennifer Thornton, and Andy Aguilar\*\*](#)