



News Release

September 19, 2012

Contact: Chris Saunders
619-961-4311
csaunders@tjssl.edu

TJSL's Distance Education Program Recognized for Course Design

SAN DIEGO - The Distance Learning Program at Thomas Jefferson School of Law (TJSL) has been recognized by a distinguished group of law school deans and scholars for its innovative course design.

TJSL's Graduate Program in International Taxation and Financial Services is a pioneer online program offering both LL.M (Master of Laws) and J.S.M. (Master of Science of Law) degrees. It is evolving into one of the top distance learning programs of its kind in the world, currently with 176 students from all over the world.

Six months ago TJSL Associate Dean William Byrnes and Program Director of the Graduate Programs Jason Fiske took on a new task: to become the most pedagogically advanced distance education program in the nation. Starting September 13, the new program format and course design were on full display as 30 invitation-only Deans, Associate Deans, and faculty from a representative mix of law schools exploring distance education components descended on TJSL. The Working Group for Distance Education in Legal Education convened to complete a white paper on best practices for distance education programs for law schools.

On Day Two, Fiske presented on the design that was co-developed by Byrnes and Fiske.

"It was a great opportunity for us to put on display the full spectrum of what our school has to offer, from the distance education's innovative course design to our outstanding building facilities," Byrnes said. "This really places our school as the thought leader in the top echelon of schools for innovative legal education."

By the end of the weekend the group had decided to feature the TJSL Graduate Program course design in a Work Group report to the ABA. LexisNexis will also feature the course design in an e-book that will be supported by Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet & Society.

Participants of the group included, by example: Harvard's Berkman Center, Boston University, Villanova, Vermont, Loyola, UC Hastings, BYU, LSU, Stetson, and Thomas Jefferson School of Law among many others.

#