



# ADVOCATE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF LAW

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In addition, McQuater is port commissioner with er member of the board the board of the San volved at USD, and ation president. ter stated that she was vious recipients of this te attorney, but also lance in one's life er encouraged law r the community. On a udents to enjoy their i valuable piece of ve after you graduate."



IL, Jennifer Root '98, ton'98.

## Alumni Gather at Regional Receptions

Three regional receptions brought USD law alumni together in locations other than the San Diego campus. On Wednesday, May 6, alumni in Las Vegas attended a two hour CLE class on ethics presented by Professor Donald Weckstein. Then 25 alumni gathered at the beautiful Spanish Trail Country Club for a reception hosted by Steven Parsons '75.

Los Angeles had two events in one day on Thursday, May 15. This provided a choice between two different areas of town and two times of day. The first event was held during the noon hour and the second during the evening. Robert (Bob) Nagata '70 hosted both of these L.A. events. The luncheon audience had the pleasure of hearing Associate Justice Richard D. Aldrich of the California Court of Appeal speak on the practice of law and the humanity of the profession at the City Club on Bunker Hill. The evening kicked off with much conversation and catching up on the latest news at Gladstone's Universal City Walk. Alumni enjoyed their visits with each other, Dean Kristine Strachan and Professor Darrell Bratton.

Many of the attendees asked for the 'Happy Hour' style evening reception to be continued more often. Please look forward to more information from the Alumni Office. Also, remember the Friday night event during Law Alumni Weekend (September 26) is for **ALL ALUMS** – any year! Come and have a "Whale of a Time" at The Birch Aquarium at Scripps.

## Jeffrey Unger's Thesis Goes to Congress



Jeffrey A. Unger '97 (LL.M.)

To fulfill his thesis requirement Jeffrey A. Unger '97 (LL.M.) wrote an article which not only earned him a master of laws degree in taxation, but a trip to Washington, D.C. "I had the great pleasure of working with Professor Lester Snyder; and now, fortunately, I have completed the thesis," noted Unger. Unger's proposal of how to simplify taking tax losses for disaster victims, was chosen by the State Bar of California to be presented to Congress. On May 12 and 13 Unger presented his thesis to the House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee, as well as the Internal Revenue Service. A

bill was drafted and new legislation was introduced in May. Unger described the experience as "thrilling and awe-inspiring." To date the new legislation is still in committee, but the bill has "10 co-sponsors and no opposition so far." Unger is optimistic that the bill will become law, for it saves the government money and helps the victims of disasters.

Unger has gained considerable media attention, including a tribute by Peter Rowe in the *San Diego Union Tribune*. In Rowe's May 18 column, Snyder remarked, "This is incredible. And this is [Unger's] first venture into tax law." In addition, Unger's article "Valuation of Real Estate Losses" will be published in the fall issue of the *Journal of Real Estate Taxation*. Unger is a practicing lawyer who specializes in real estate and other business transactions at the firm of Post Kirby Noonan & Sweat LLP in San Diego. Commenting on his achievements, Administrative Director of Graduate Programs Judith Carbone '94 said, "I am pleased that the quality of Jeff's research was recognized by Congress – it is a most timely topic for a thesis, and if adopted would assist a great number of taxpayers. Jeff is a prime example of the academic excellence being achieved in our LL.M. programs. We are proud to add him to our list of accomplished alumni."