



Floyd Chapman, JD 2003

Served on CA Committee of Bar Examiners

In the late nineties, when working as a marketing director for a financial services company, Floyd Chapman sensed growing regulatory pressure in the financial industry. Moving into the arena of financial services compliance seemed an attractive move for him but he realized that to do so, he'd have to complete law school and pass the California Bar. While searching for a nearby law school, Chapman came across an application for an online law school—Concord. It enabled him to continue working full-time while also pursuing his law degree.

“Concord was very comfortable for me. As an adult learner, I found it very convenient, very challenging in terms of content and courses, and outstanding in the way it delivered the content online. I was surprised at the quality of education an online program can deliver. I was impressed by the quality of the lectures and the extensive grading and evaluation process. Most schools don't include multiple choice questions on their quizzes, but Concord did, along with numerous demanding essays...and the feedback was outstanding. I never received a cursory response. Often the responses I received were greater in length than my original essay!

“Of the knowledge I gained, most valuable to me was the ability to read cases and use them to analyze the legal situation at hand. I developed a very effective case study methodology. Because of that I am able to put myself in the shoes of both the plaintiff and defendant, helping me tremendously in the pro bono work I do today.”

Today, Chapman is a corporate officer for a Fortune 100 financial services company where he works in their standards and compliance area. He travels to eleven western states where he investigates customer complaints, agent and manager issues, and examines the operations at various locations to ensure all is in compliance with company, state, and federal regulations.

In his spare time, Chapman takes on pro bono cases for the Volunteer Legal Services Program of the San Francisco Bar Association. Indeed, in 2006 Chapman received their “Outstanding Volunteer in Public Service Award.” From 2007-2011 Chapman also volunteered—and was appointed by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California—to serve a four-year term on the Committee of Bar Examiners where he held the positions of Chair of the Operations and Management Subcommittee and Co-Chair of the Committee during his tenure.

Chapman was the Committee's first-ever online law school appointee and, as such, he was often called upon to educate the committee. The timing couldn't be better: the Committee was in the process of reviewing existing guidelines and beginning to regulate distance learning schools. They wanted to understand better how these schools implemented their standards, and Chapman was able to provide the insight they needed from the perspective of both a student and administrator. They were also surprised to learn about the non-traditional students (multiple degreed, mid-career professionals) who chose this kind of legal education. Chapman found himself often providing real-world experience and advocating the advantages of online education.

“I believe I've enhanced the perception of the rigor of education possible and the type of graduates minted by the non-traditional, non-ABA model schools. The result will invariably put pressure on under-performing schools, but that's OK. It's important to maintain high standards and high visibility as ultimately, this will win the credibility of this new model of school.”

Although he has completed serving his term on the Committee of Bar Examiners, Chapman continues to volunteer his time on pro-bono cases for the San Francisco Bar Association. Of late, he has been successful in keeping families and children from becoming homeless as part of an eviction prevention project undertaken by the Bar.

On a personal note, Chapman deeply believes in helping lower and middle income Americans access judicial services in the civil and criminal courts. His plan is to open a law firm focused on his core beliefs one day. “Because of the growing disparity of income these days, attorneys should be at the forefront to keep people committed to the belief in access to justice. This is a key concept on which our country was founded, and is even more critical in our increasingly diverse society.”

When not working or volunteering his time, Chapman enjoys traveling and having his two grandchildren teach him to swim and surf.