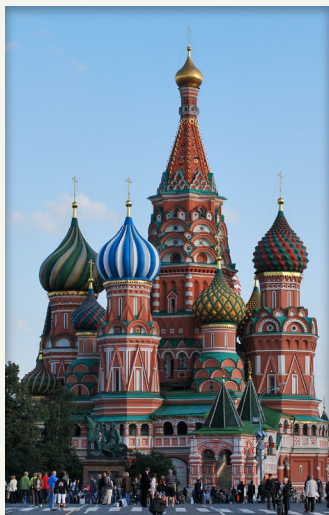


SAN DIEGO LAWYER®



PLACES WE'VE BEEN



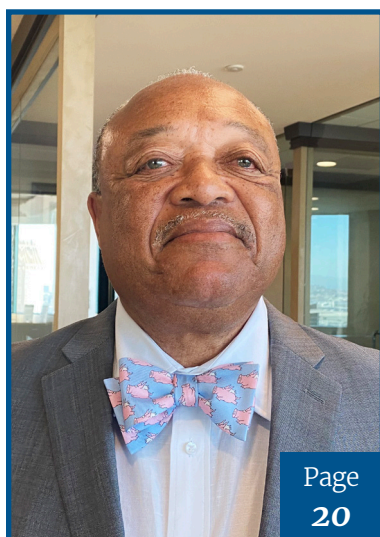
plus

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At Another American Racial Crossroads

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LEISURELY 'LAWYERING' ABROAD

By Jeremy M. Evans

A piece of your heart is left overseas when you travel. On second thought, when overseas, a traveling heart grows with one's mind. It is also quite possible that both of those statements are true because one leaves relationships, but takes memories with them when traveling. Often, the traveler never knows whether or not they will return one day.

While in law school, I wrote the following in my journal about traveling abroad and eventually published the words on my law practice website. It was so applicable that it is being shared here:

"Traveling to Nice, France and Hangzhou, China in the Summer of 2009 was the first of many things for me. It was the first time I had left the United States. First time traveling around the world (from Los Angeles, CA to Asia, to the Middle East, to Europe, to New York, NY, to Seattle, WA, and back to San Diego, CA). It was the first time living in a foreign country and meeting friends from around the world. More importantly, it was the beginning of life-long relationships with friends and colleagues that could only be strengthened while traveling in a foreign country.

If that is not enough, how about traveling to 19 countries and 29 cities in three months over the summer and getting eight units toward my J.D. and law school graduation? And for those inclined to know, study abroad programs are focused on cultural education (having fun and entertaining times) as much as they are toward the legal education. Why else would you travel halfway across the world to learn? The point is to immerse yourself in the culture, meet people, and to be challenged in living life to the fullest.

Needless to say, the programs were an amazing experience and it was one of the best times in my life. Those who traveled together still keep in touch and laugh about those experiences. It was also those experiences and challenges in traveling overseas that gave us additional confidence to go after our dreams, without fear or trembling."

If the reader is thinking about joining a study abroad program in law school (or during any other schooling), or traveling in general, take advantage of the opportunity. You never know when opportunities will be provided to you and traveling makes you a more well-rounded person. It is also a little easier (or maybe more fun) to earn law school units toward your juris doctor degree while traveling.

As for stories, I remember getting stopped by the P.L.O. outside Bethlehem before entering Jerusalem in Israel and being worried because I left my passport in the King David Hotel. My beard and hair thankfully allowed me to look more like a local (according to my really nice taxi driver) and my negotiation skills from a baseball arbitration competition helped me through the proverbial gates.

I remember traveling on what seemed like the longest escalator in human history in Prague, Czech Republic, on the way to watching an English dub of the film *Public Enemies* (2009) starring Johnny Depp, while everyone else read the subtitles. I remember seeing a young Chinese man sing "Hotel California" by the Eagles in Hangzhou, China, which was the best karaoke performance of the night. I remember seeing the sunrise while walking on the Great Wall of China.

I also visited Austria, France, England, Ireland, Hungary, Belgium, Italy, Monaco, Switzerland, Taiwan, and Greece. During my stay in Greece, I met up with three beloved law school girlfriends and we enjoyed a great evening of dinner and dancing overlooking the Acropolis of Athens and the Parthenon.

Life could be worse. I earned eight units toward my J.D. and gained a lifetime of friendships, memories, and experiences. Not bad for a kid who before then had never left the U.S. of A.



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