

BAR ASSOCIATIONS • May. 23, 2006

## **39 Percent of 4,798 Test-Takers Conquer the State Bar Exam**

*By Sarah Garvey*  
Special to the Daily Journal

Craig W. Ching felt like he was holding his breath all day Friday nervously awaiting the results of the February State Bar Exam.

His fear ended at 7:02 p.m., when he logged onto the Bar's Web site and got the good news: He passed.

"I'm finally exhaling," he said.

Ching, a San Mateo resident, is among the 39 percent of the 4,798 general bar exam takers who passed. The pass rate for the 1,361 first-time applicants was 53.5 percent; for the 3,437 repeat takers, 33.3 percent. Of the 403 lawyers who took the attorney's exam, 211, or 52.4 percent, passed. Among them was Kathleen M. Sullivan, the renowned constitutional scholar and former dean of Stanford Law School, who failed the exam last July.

This was also Ching's "second swing" at the grueling three-day exam. He likened the experience to his taekwon do black belt exam.

"My black belt exam was all about using your mind to push through the pain and get through the endurance part," he said.

"I think the Bar Exam is the same way. Everyone has a different weakness, and the Bar makes you confront it."

That's exactly what Ching did in tackling the dreaded exam for a second time.

"I picked myself up," he said. "I went out and got a tutor. We talked about where I could have fallen and we shored that up. ... I surrounded myself with people in my shoes and developed a little support group."

Ching, 30, hopes to find a job "that will get [him] into the courtroom."

At Golden Gate University School of Law, he externed for a federal magistrate, worked on the school's Innocence Project, co-authored an article on eyewitness identification and volunteered for the public defender's office.

"I think I'm just anxious more than nervous," Ching said, "to put my shingle out there and say: 'I can exercise my professional judgment for you and help you.'"

San Francisco-based Morrison & Foerster associate Jacqueline A. Bos and new hire Grace M. Chu also found out Friday evening they passed exam. Bos, 34, already is a lawyer in Australia and New York.

In Australia, where she grew up, she worked as an antitrust regulator for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and as an antitrust lawyer for Melbourne's Allens Arthur Robinson.

She moved to the United States in 2002 "to see the home of antitrust law" and joined New York's Cravath, Swaine & Moore as a litigator.

Bos plans to continue antitrust litigation work in San Francisco, where people have a "similar attitude to Australians - friendly and welcoming."

Chu, 26, is looking forward to a career in transactional law.

"I'd like to wrap my head around writing an agreement," Chu said. "It feels very creative, very productive."

She graduated in December 2005 from the University of Michigan Law School, where she served on the school's Journal of Gender & Law and Journal of Law Reform.

"I like it so much," she said about working at Morrison & Foerster. "I like the people. Diligence isn't quite as bad as I feared."

She's been putting in 12-hour days, she said, and Friday was no exception.

After she got her results at 6:45 p.m. on her office computer, she kept working. She paused a couple of hours later for a piece of chocolate cake and a glass of milk with fellow associates.

Then, she said, "Now back to work!"

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