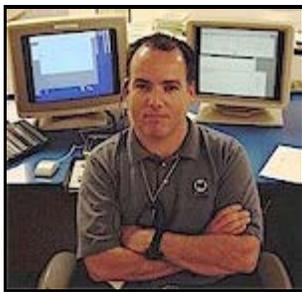


Pete Mellon Found New Challenges:

## Law School and the Bar Exam



Pete Mellon

By GARY WOSK  
(July 12, 2001) After 11 years as an MTA bus operator and dispatch supervisor in Bus Operations Control, Pete Mellon realized he needed a new challenge.

Mt. Everest might have been easier, but he chose law school, even while continuing to work fulltime.

In July, the 40-year-old father of three, who received his law degree in June from California Southern Law School, faces the final hurdle: the California bar exam.

No problem, predicts Mellon, who graduated second in his class and is the first member in his family to earn a law degree. "I will pass, no negative thoughts; it's just going to happen."

Mellon joined the MTA in 1984 as a part-time bus operator and became a transportation operations supervisor in 1990. Fear of stagnation was what motivated him in 1997 to become a night law student.

"I needed to find something that would set me apart, to try something different," he says.

### A positive influence on his kids

Watching dad attend school twice a week for four years has proved a positive influence on the lives of Mellon's children, Andrew, 17, Justin, 15, and Rachel 11.

"They think it's great," he says. "It has raised the bar for the family as far as our expectations are concerned. The kids see me study and as a result have become better students."

Married 17 years to wife Judy, Mellon hasn't decided what he'll do when he passes the bar, but hopes his next challenge will combine his transit experience and his favorite legal subjects, commercial and contract law.

"We'll see. Everything is open. I'm not closing any doors behind me," he says.

MTA was only too happy to oblige Mellon's yearnings to improve himself.

"My co-workers and managers helped me out whenever there were scheduling conflicts or final exams," he says. "I couldn't have accomplished this unless my managers had been supportive. No way."

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