



The Story of The OC at Boalt

The OC at Boalt's Sandy Cohen Fellowship, named after the Berkeley Law graduate played by Peter Gallagher on Fox's television show "The OC," was established to support students who volunteer for unpaid summer employment at organizations providing for public defense. Sandy was a public defender who adopted the troubled teen, Ryan Atwood (played by Benjamin MacKenzie), after he was arrested in the show's pilot episode.

Since the fellowship's inception, Peter Gallagher has visited The University of California, Berkeley Law School (Boalt Hall) every year to present the annual award. Peter will visit Boalt Hall for the third time at 5 p.m. on May 11, 2006 to award the 2006 Fellowship.

The Sandy Cohen Fellowship is commonly called "The Sandy" or "The Sandy Cohen Public Defender Fellowship for Lawyers who Dare to Dream." The OC at Boalt raises money for The Sandy through an annual OC at Boalt Totally Awesome Prom fundraising event. Peter Gallagher and Fox Television have also contributed generously to the award.

The value of the fellowship award has grown over the last three years. The first fellowship was presented for nearly \$2000. Now the \$5000 award is split between five law students, all of whom will work in public defenders offices. This year, nine students applied for the fellowship, and at least this many Boalt Hall students will be spending their summers working for public defender offices.

The OC at Boalt was conceived by Boalt Hall alumnus John Kim as an answer to the banality of law school. When "The O.C." premiered on Fox during the summer before his final year of law school, he saw in "The O.C." everything that was missing from law school life in general: glamour, romance, and visionary lawyering. He decided that other law students might feel the same and organized the club as soon as school began again in the fall of 2003.

The OC at Boalt has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Blender*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Oakland Tribune*, and many other publications. A video showcasing the club appears on Fox Television's "The OC" homepage.

In addition to The OC at Boalt Totally Awesome Prom, the OC at Boalt sponsors an annual "OC Awareness Week." During the week, students wear orange ribbons and the club sponsors speakers and forum events at Boalt Hall. The club has hosted discussions with Boalt Hall professors as well as prominent local authors and other student groups. The OC at Boalt also celebrates the pilot episode of each season with "The OC in Five Minutes," a skit that summarizes the events of past seasons to immediately catch new viewers up on "The OC" story.

Alison Watkins is the 2005-06 The OC at Boalt Commander-in-Chief. She can be reached for comment by e-mail: theoatboalt@law.berkeley.edu. Other media inquiries should be directed to The OC at Boalt Sultan of Spectacle Carl Gustafson at carlgustafson@berkeley.edu.