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University of San Diego Criminal Clinic

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UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO CRIMINAL CLINIC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rodney Jones, J.D., Director of USD's Criminal Clinic, today announced that second year clinic student James Gorman won his first trial by a directed verdict of acquittal.

The three day felony welfare fraud and conspiracy trial was conducted by Gorman before Superior Court Judge Verne O. Warner and a jury. A total of seventeen witnesses were called in the course of the trial and the highlight of the case came at the conclusion of the defendant's proof when welfare lawyer Bob Burkholder testified as an expert witness. Burkholder gave his opinion concerning the meaning of the term "continued absence" of a parent as construed for welfare eligibility purposes.

Jim Gorman was opposed by USD graduate Howard H. Shore, now a Deputy District Attorney in San Diego.

Jack Kelleher, Gorman's supervising attorney and Professor of Law at the University of San Diego, expressed satisfaction with the trial and Gorman's handling of the many defense witnesses. Students may appear in court on behalf of clients if certified by the state bar, consent is obtained from the client, and if supervised by an experienced attorney at all times.

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