DEALING WITH REALITY

Course teams law students with business students to reimagine real-life deals.
There is no more exciting place in legal education than the USC Gould School of Law. As you may know, the university has launched its historic Campaign for the University of Southern California, the most ambitious fund-raising campaign in the history of higher education. Although we will share our aspirations for USC Law’s role in the campaign in the coming months, I want to share briefly the vision that will guide us.

In my conversations with our faculty, alumni and friends, it is readily apparent that today’s successful lawyer must be more than a rigorous legal analyst. Although thinking like a lawyer remains an indispensable trait, one which we have instilled in law students for decades, today’s lawyer also has to engage meaningfully with other professionals. Effective lawyers are client-focused; they understand the needs of those whom they represent, and they think strategically to obtain the best results for their clients. Depending on their area of practice, lawyers need to understand professions such as business, accounting, communications, policy, engineering, the health sciences, social work and the entertainment industry. To better prepare our students to work across these professions, legal education needs to be inter-professional as well.

“Effective lawyers are client-focused; they understand the needs of those whom they represent, and they think strategically to obtain the best results for their clients.”

We have already taken a number of steps to offer our students the education that will launch them on careers that will span half a century. We have clinics that embrace a wide variety of client needs: small business, immigration, criminal law, mediation, human rights, intellectual property. We offer certificate programs in business law and entertainment law, and we encourage our students to take classes at USC’s other highly regarded professional schools. No other university has a better constellation of professional schools than our university, and the professional students of those schools, just like our students, are going to be leaders in the coming decades.

Of course, it is impossible to have a great law school without great scholars. This past year, we recruited two leading scholars to join our ranks. Lee Epstein, the Provost Professor and Rader Family Trustee Chair in Law and Political Science, joins us from Northwestern University. Nancy Staudt, the Edward G. Lewis Chair in Law and Public Policy, also comes to us from Northwestern. You can learn a bit more about each of them as well as other developments at our school in the pages of this magazine.

The next decade promises to be an exhilarating time for our law school. I look forward to working with you as we continue to shape one of the world’s leading institutions.

Very truly yours,

Robert K. Rasmussen
Dean and Carl Mason Franklin Chair in Law
DEALING WITH REALITY

Lawyers help their business clients close deals every day. So why should law students wait until graduation to get that experience? A new class at USC Law brings together J.D. and MBA students to create deals — and get critiqued by real-life dealmakers.
**HERO GRAD BLENDS LAW PRACTICE, ENFORCEMENT**

By day, Shervin Lalezary ’08 is a real estate attorney with a solo transactional practice in Beverly Hills, Calif. By night, the 30-year-old serves as a volunteer reserve Los Angeles County Sheriff’s deputy. He spotted and helped capture suspected L.A.-area arsonist Harry Burkhart on Jan. 2.

Lalezary earns $1 per year to patrol with the same training and authority as paid, full-time deputies. He entered the Sheriff’s academy as a 3L.

“Meeting the requirements of the academy and law school was definitely a challenge, but having the incredible support of my family, friends and professors definitely helped me through it,” he says.

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**NOTICE OUR NEW LOOK?**

USC and the USC Gould School of Law have adopted a new graphic identity that promotes a strong, consistent look across a wide range of print and online media. The most notable of the changes is the more prominent use of the “Gould” name in the law school’s new logo.

The Gould family is associated with a long-standing American legal tradition, and identifies the law school as being at the forefront of legal education. James Gould (1770-1838) served as a justice on the Connecticut Supreme Court and a leader of the Litchfield Law School, the nation’s first law school. Charles Winthrop Gould (1849-1931) was a prominent New York attorney and founder of the law firm Gould & Wilkie (whose prominent former attorneys include Judge Learned Hand).

The nephew of Charles Winthrop Gould, USC Law alumnus Col. John W. Barnes (J.D. 1927; L.L.M. 1931), bequeathed the family estate to USC in the early 1940s. When the bequest was fully realized in the 1960s, the school was renamed the Gould School of Law, becoming the first named school at USC.

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**Prof. Nancy Staudt, along with NYU Prof. Joshua Blank, found that the IRS prevailed more than six times out of 10 in Supreme Court cases where it argued that corporations actively abused the tax code. Read more about “Corporate Shams” at law.usc.edu/TaxAbuseStudy**

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*Shervin Lalezary ’08, far right, with his brother Shawn.*
USC Law Dean Robert K. Rasmussen was inducted as a Fellow into the American College of Bankruptcy. The ceremony took place at the U.S. Supreme Court in the Great Hall in March.

“It is a great honor to be a member of the College,” Rasmussen says. “When I look at those who are in the College, especially those here from Southern California, it is clear that these are the leaders of our insolvency community. I very much appreciate being invited to join those whom I have admired for years.”

@lisaborodkin: “Access, access, access” — Judge Alex Kozinski at @USCGouldLaw IP Institute, on what is “location, location, location” in copying cases

Mary Ramsey ’12 @Mary_Jeanette: Surprise #artlaw in Counseling the Startup today — any day with an #AndyWarhol on screen is a great one.

Zein Obagi ’08 @zeinobagijr: @uscgouldlaw Thanks for the mention! I am continually thankful for the first rate education at USC Law and lessons on the US Constitution.

@goodbadandfab: Bummed i’ll miss Justice Scalia’s @uscgouldlaw lecture. Push back Miami trip? #lawgeek

@sethreagan: Thanks to @USCGouldLaw IP Institute for an enjoyable (and informative) conference today!

Bob Rasmussen @USCLawDean: Leading faculty making an impact in the world; that’s who we are. For example, see today’s LA Times story on Tom Lyon lat.ms/vZfRim

@changesq: Great write up of our @ACC_SoCal #InHouse #Counsel #Career panel by @USCGould Law http://ow.ly/9GGMV

Jennifer Berson ’01 @JenerationPR: My law school @uscgouldlaw has invited me to serve on an “alternative careers” panel. I did this 2 years ago & I’m excited to do it again!

CONNECT WITH USC LAW

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“The only question is: does the jury sympathize with the defendant? If they feel sympathy and empathy with [George Zimmerman], they’ll acquit.”

—Prof. Jody Armour to Current TV, discussing the shooting of Trayvon Martin
It would be wrong to conclude that the best way to go about life is to always play it safe,” the Honorable Goodwin Hon Liu told the USC Gould School of Law Class of 2012 at commencement ceremonies held May 11.

Liu, an associate justice on the California Supreme Court, shared his own “failures in life’s journey” and what he learned from each experience before exhorting the graduates to embrace failures, look for the lessons to be learned from them, and “step up, speak up and take a risk.”

His most public failure came last summer, after President Obama’s nomination of Liu to fill a vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit had languished amid opposition from Republicans that he was too liberal. Liu eventually withdrew his nomination to the post. He was the first Obama judicial nominee to be successfully filibustered in the Senate.

“If being nominated by the president of the United States to serve as an appellate judge is a major high, then having your nomination filibustered by the Senate is certainly one of the lowest lows,” Liu said.

Maya Sukumar, president of the Class of 2012, spoke on behalf of the graduating J.D. candidates. Tiffany Li Yew Heah, an LL.M. candidate from Malaysia, spoke on behalf of her fellow Graduate and International Programs graduates.

“Leave Your Comfort Zone”

“a rock star in the world of tax law

—New York Times’ Gretchen Morgenson on Prof. Edward D. Kleinbard
“We can’t suspend our democratic processes because we think that, at some point, we’ll come back to peacetime.”

— Prof. Mary Dudziak

DUDZIAK EXPLORES CONSEQUENCES OF “WAR • TIME”
Book addresses blurry line between wartime and peacetime

Prof. Mary Dudziak’s book “War • Time: An Idea, Its History, Its Consequences” (Oxford University Press) was examined by legal and history scholars at a symposium held at USC Law this spring.

The book — a meditation on war, time and the laws we enact during “wartime” — has earned rave reviews from Publishers Weekly and the New York Journal of Books, among others.

“Mary’s book is profound, provocative, timely and original,” said Elaine Tyler May, regents professor of history and American studies at the University of Minnesota. “Over the last half-century, war has become a way of life, yet the horrors of war are largely hidden.”

Because war is seen as temporary, Americans have been willing to accept exceptional wartime policies that enhance presidential power while eroding civil liberties. But, what if “wartime” is in fact our “normal time?”

“How do we want American democracy to work now?” said Dudziak, the Judge Edward J. and Ruey L. Guirado Professor of Law, History and Political Science. “We can’t suspend our democratic processes because we think that, at some point, we’ll come back to peace time. If we’re going to have rights and constraints on presidential powers, they have to happen in the kind of time that we have now.”

Prof. Rebecca Brown questioned whether a set of laws and procedures should be created that deal exclusively with wartime and times of emergency.

“There is one lesson to learn from Mary’s book,” she said. “Wartime is not the time to defer to the executive branch. Some of the biggest mistakes come from over-trusting the government during times of war.”

Read more at wartimebook.blogspot.com

LYON AWARDED $2 MILLION NIH GRANT TO IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICES FOR INTERVIEWING POTENTIALLY MALTREATED CHILDREN

The National Institutes of Health has awarded Prof. Thomas Lyon a $2 million grant to refine and test the protocol he developed to interview maltreated children about their abuse — methods he developed with the support of a previous $1.7 million NIH grant.

The grant comes on the heels of Lyon completing NIH-supported research on maltreated children’s reluctance to disclose their abuse. Lyon identified a protocol that encourages children to reveal truthful information without increasing the risks of suggestibility or influence. Two state agencies that train forensic interviewers and law enforcement have adopted the protocol.

“We’re now working on how rapport-building can increase children’s willingness to disclose, and how different types of questions either suppress details or lead to false reports,” says Lyon, the Judge Edward J. and Ruey L. Guirado Chair in Law and Psychology.
The late William Rutter ’55, who established the William A. Rutter Distinguished Teaching Award at USC Law and four other California law schools, was fondly remembered at the spring Annual Awards.

Prof. Stephen Rich received the 2012 award, presented by Rutter’s son, Paul Rutter, and Dean Robert K. Rasmussen.

“Many students stressed the great and successful lengths to which [Prof. Rich] went to motivate them and push them to excel, not only in class but generally in law school,” Rasmussen said.

Student Shattuck Award winners were 2012 graduates Najeh Baharun, Natasha Chua Tan, Michael Pemstein, Andrew Quinio, Maya Sukumar and Annette Wong. Jane Tanimura received the Miller-Johnson Equal Justice Prize, and the Mason C. Brown Award went to Ryan Wolfe. Graduate and International Programs awards went to Tiffany Li Yew Heah and Ruju Thakker.

The Student Bar Association honored Vice Dean Scott Altman as professor of the year, Reynolds Cafferata as adjunct faculty of the year, and Aliza Jones of the Law Café as staff member of the year.

Read more about the late William Rutter on Page 35.

STUDENTS FORM USC BUSINESS LAW SOCIETY
Group focuses on preparation for transactional work

Enterprising USC Law students Mikhail Brandon ’13 and Justin Goldberg ’13 formed the Business Law Society to provide guidance to students who are interested in transactional law.

“With all the resources at USC Law, like the J.D./MBA and the Business Law Certificate, it seemed like there was a lot of substance, but the students weren’t being really active about it,” Brandon says. “We want people to have a sense of what they can do with a law degree, where they can take it.”

Looking to hit the ground running, they consulted the dean and every business expert on the faculty, and announced the group to the student body with an invitation to its first event.

“Tech IPOs from Start to Finish” featured four top-notch technology attorneys who played a part in some of the most notable recent technology IPOs, including Groupon, LinkedIn and DTS Entertainment.
Cristyn Chadwick ’11 came to USC Law with the conviction that a legal education would enable her to advocate for clients and tackle real-world problems. So as a 2L, she signed up for Prof. Clare Pastore’s Access to Justice Practicum.

“When you’re taking classes, it’s easy to get lost in the academia of it all,” Chadwick says. “In the practicum, you need to get the law right, but the focus is on the client and presenting as strong a case as you can.”

Pastore, a highly regarded public interest attorney and four-time Southern California “Super Lawyer,” established the practicum in 2008 to teach future attorneys how to advocate for clients on impact litigation and advocacy projects in the real world.

“I view the students as junior colleagues,” Pastore says. “They do extensive research and writing and draft all the pleadings, and I give them lots of feedback.”

Last year, Chadwick and classmate Natalie Quan ’11 worked on a case the government eventually settled, restoring a foster child’s benefits and resuming administrative rehearings that had been improperly denied.

“We wrote the complaint that was filed with the court,” Quan says. “It was a challenge and a privilege to write something that would go before a judge rather than just a professor.”

Jane Tanimura ’12 was selected by UCLA’s Williams Institute to present a paper at its Student Workshop on Contemporary LGBTQ Scholarship in April. Tanimura’s paper is titled “A Duty to Protect Female Transgender Inmates from the Obvious and Foreseeable Risk of Sexual Assault.” She originally wrote the paper for Prof. David Cruz’s Sex, Gender, and Law seminar.

HONOURED AT THE 2012 PRO BONO AWARDS LUNCHEON:
Public Interest Law Foundation Attorney of the Year Pamela Marx ’78, supervising attorney with Mental Health Advocacy Services; Paul Davis Memorial Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Michael Turrill ’95, a partner at Arent Fox; and PILF Student of the Year Ryan Wolfe ’12.

WIELDING LAW IN THE REAL WORLD

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Natalie Quan ’11 and Cristyn Chadwick ’11
Dealing with Reality

New class teaches law and business students to close deals — then face the original deal-makers

Darren Schenck
Standing before her classmates at the USC Gould School of Law last spring, Megan Prichard ’11 describes how she helped close a deal with legendary media investor Jerry Perenchio to purchase Univision Communications from Hallmark Cards. Along with two MBA students from the USC Marshall School of Business, she represents Televisa and Venevisión, foreign companies that needed an American partner to bring their programming to the United States Hispanic market.

Perenchio, too, is represented by a J.D. candidate and MBA student.

Altogether, the five students describe their negotiations: the issues they spotted, the terms they proposed and how they resolved their differences. Every facet of the deal, from the FCC legal issues to the financing, is reviewed in detail.

Although the original deal was closed in 1991, the students have worked from background information and a prompt sheet not to reconstruct that deal, but to create their own.

Watching the presentations from a seat in the front row is Steve Rader ’81. Co-founder and managing general partner of Clarity Partners, he was the attorney who negotiated Perenchio’s purchase of Univision in 1991.

“It was the deal that made my career,” he says. Once the students have finished, Rader critiques their presentations and tells them how he helped close the deal for Perenchio. He then discusses the good and bad that came of the deal, in effect critiquing his own performance.

This scenario — law and business students negotiating recent deals and then presenting them to the real-life deal-makers — was staged five times in a new course called “Deals: The Economic Structure of Transactions and Contracting,” a joint venture of USC Law and the USC Marshall School.

“Deals” is at the vanguard of USC Law’s efforts to prepare students to thrive in the business world from the moment they begin working as attorneys.

“The Deals class represents a growing realization across the academy that you have to combine cutting-edge rigorous theoretical analysis with a sense of how theory actually cashes out on the ground,” says USC Law Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. “The message is getting out there that the marriage of law and business gives you a set of tools that can launch you on your career.”

James G. Ellis, dean of the USC Marshall School of Business, shares Dean Rasmussen’s enthusiasm for the joint venture.

“This interdisciplinary class really represents the best of USC,” he says. “It crosses traditional academic boundaries to give students powerful experiences and help them solve complex problems.”

Created by USC Law Prof. Ehud Kamar and USC Marshall School Prof. Mark Weinstein, who holds a joint appointment with the law school, the Deals class invites law and business students to leave their respective comfort zones and learn to work together before embarking on new careers.

“Looking at doctrine or theory is necessary but not sufficient for closing a deal — you must be able to create a structure and a plan,” says Kamar, who worked in mergers and acquisitions at a New York law firm before becoming a professor. “Students plan and design deals of all kinds. Once they see and understand the common themes and patterns in all these deals, it’s easier to see how they can help their clients.”

Weinstein wanted to offer the class, he says, because it’s important for businesspeople to understand what lawyers do, and even more important for lawyers to understand what businesspeople do.

“It’s nice to say you want to do a deal, but if it involves anything other than buying screws, then it’s a relationship.”

— USC Marshall School Prof. Mark Weinstein
BUSINESS FOR LAWYERS

Five years after graduating from USC Law, Doug Levinson ’83 had become disillusioned with his successful litigation practice and, in an effort to expand his horizons, enrolled in UCLA’s Anderson School of Business. Among the reasons he sought an MBA was his recognition that a more intimate understanding of the business world would provide a greater connection to clients.

After graduating from Anderson, Levinson was given a faculty appointment and asked to teach business law to MBA candidates. But, as that course became more popular, Levinson kept returning to a nagging question: If the basics of law were important to business students, why not open the world of business to law students?

“Business is everything,” Levinson says. “If you can provide a working, practical understanding and vocabulary of the grand ‘everything’ to law students, an immensely rich universe has opened for them.”

Levinson developed a new course, Business for Lawyers, which he has taught as a lecturer at USC Law since 2004. Designed as a fast track to financial literacy, the course has become one of the school’s most popular electives.

“While lawyers always need to engage in legal analysis, they have to be empathetic towards the needs and aspirations of their clients,” says Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. “By understanding the basics of accounting and finance, a lawyer can have an appreciation of what the client is trying to accomplish and, by having a business perspective, the lawyer can appreciate how important the matter is to the client and what is an acceptable outcome.”

Sarah Hall ’10 says that, even though she knew she didn’t want to go into business, Business for Lawyers was one of the most useful courses she took at USC Law.

“The most valuable thing I learned was how to market my skills as an attorney and how to create business,” she says. “It’s a critical skill that I hadn’t been exposed to.”

The course covers nuts-and-bolts areas such as finance, operations, marketing and economics as well as more esoteric subjects such as strategy, time and project management, and negotiation.

“I have an undergraduate degree in business and the class summed up everything I learned over four years in one semester,” says Najeh Baharan ’12. “For me, it’s a refresher, but for individuals with no business background, it’s a great foundation. If you understand underlying business principles and how businesses function, it can help you with litigation cases.”

—Maria Iacobo

parties to sign the agreement; all the work really starts after the lawyers and the bankers go home. You have to live with the business relationship you entered into and make it work.”

The course’s most popular feature: bringing in the lawyers and principals behind some of the business world’s most audacious and successful deals to critique the students’ presentations.

LEARNING FROM THE PROS

Back in the law school classroom, Rader is visibly enjoying himself. He is impressed by the students’ work and enjoys speaking about how the deal was reached.

“We were in litigation regarding this deal as recently as 2010,” he says. “If my team and the team from the foreign partners had worked out all these issues the way you worked them out, I don’t think there would have been that kind of litigation.”

“Business is everything,” Levinson says. “If you can provide a working, practical understanding and vocabulary of the grand ‘everything’ to law students, an immensely rich universe has opened for them.”

It is not enough to get the parties to sign the agreement; all the work really starts after the lawyers and the bankers go home.”

— USC Law Prof. Ehud Kamar

After detailing for students the 18 months of negotiations in which he participated, Rader described some tenets of the deal that were particularly inventive. Among them were an agreement to pay each foreign company a 15 percent royalty on sales, regardless of which company’s programming was used, and 50-50 control of the network between Perenchio and the foreign companies.

The goal was to ensure the parties focus on the profits of the new business and not on what each of them brought to the table.

“We worked toward the greater good,” Rader says. “The greater good was the belief that if we built this company into a network that looked like CBS or NBC, we would create tremendous value.”

Later, Rader says the students could already be in practice, such was their level of sophistication.

“I was blown away,” he says. “They came up with approaches we hadn’t considered but should have considered.”

Rader notes that no such class existed when he was at USC Law, and that when he started practicing, he was offered very little legal or business training.

“When I started out practicing law, the partners told me, ‘Good luck – try not to commit malpractice,’” he jokes. “These students won’t have as much trial by combat.”

Prichard, who represented the two Spanish-language programmers, said she learned that being diligent in identifying issues and recommending
solutions does not preclude a more creative approach to deal-making.

“A lot of times, as a lawyer, you feel a bit constrained,” she says. “Hearing Steve talk opened my eyes to how you can think outside the box to the advantage of your client.”

Weinstein and Kamar emphasize that there are many ways to approach the same set of problems presented by a deal.

“There’s a natural tendency to see how the deal was done and assume it was the best way to do it,” Weinstein says. “But students can see alternative ways to structure it.”

MBA candidate Tomer Petel ‘11, whose team represented Perenchio, says he loved the mix of theory and real-world application the deal presented.

“It was great to be able to focus on one deal for three weeks,” he says. “It’s important because you’re going to be working on deals that require you to go into detail. It felt real world.”

Steve Rader wasn’t the only Trojan to critique a student presentation.

Stanley Gold ’67, president and CEO of Shamrock Holdings and former member of the Walt Disney Company’s board of directors, witnessed students put together a deal for the buyout of Tadiran Com. Ltd. by Talla Communication Industries.

Long after he finished critiquing the students’ presentations, Gold spent the better part of two hours sharing insights gained from decades of work as a principal investor. Students were in his thrall as he spilled anecdote upon anecdote from his biggest investment deals, drawing especially on his time at Disney.

“I was impressed with the students’ work, the thoughtfulness, especially the deal team,” Gold says. “They didn’t have as many facts as I had, but with what they had, they did an A-plus job. The fact that I could add some context to it, I hope I gave them a sense of what the real world is like, which is what this class is designed to do.”

He also gave his heartiest endorsement of the Deals class and any ventures that bring together law and business students.
“I think the more lawyers can appreciate businesspeople, and the more businesspeople can appreciate lawyers, commerce will be the beneficiary,” he says.

Another deal, based on Colony Capital’s acquisition of Miramax in 2010, placed students in the position of Tom Barrack ’69 and Ron Tutor ’63, two USC graduates who together acquired one of the industry’s finest film libraries.

MBA candidate Ben Anderson ’12, who worked on the Colony Capital deal, says he especially appreciated the opportunity to present to the principals behind the original transaction.

“We do a lot of cases in business school where you try to step into the mind of the CEO and then we discuss it in class, but there’s no real accountability for whether our reasoning or conclusions are correct,” he says. “So to have the guys who sat in the offices and went through all the meetings say, ‘You did this really well,’ or ‘This part you may have missed,’ is a valuable learning experience.”

THINKING LIKE A LAWYER (WHO CAN THINK LIKE A BUSINESSPERSON)

Anderson said working with law students was revealing.

“The opportunity to have a class with law students, who think and do things differently, is invaluable,” he said.

He and fellow MBA candidate Evan Pearlman ’12 said they would have enjoyed working with even more of the law students.

“Working with the law students gave more credibility to the work we did,” Pearlman said. “If we hadn’t worked with law students, Ben and I may have come up with some assumptions that aren’t plausible in the real world.”

Shoshana Zimmerman ’12 worked with Anderson and Pearlman on the Colony Capital deal. She said she found that her business school partners had completely different perspectives on what the important issues were.
HOLLYWOOD HUNGER GAMES: ATTORNEYS EXPLORE LANDMARK LIONS GATE-SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT DEAL

It was the transaction that brought together Bella Swan and Katniss Everdeen, or at least the movie studios behind the iconic characters and hugely profitable film franchises.

The merger of Lions Gate Entertainment Corp., the studio behind “The Hunger Games,” and Summit Entertainment, which brought audiences three “Twilight” films, was the subject of a recent panel discussion at USC Law. Three attorneys who played key roles in the merger and an expert in digital and new media transactions joined moderator Prof. Michael Chasalow to explore the $412.5 million deal.

The panel was sponsored by the USC Business Law Society and by the Marshall Partners, the student arm of the USC Marshall School of Business’s alumni association. An audience of about 70 students comprised about half business students and half law students, both J.D. and LL.M.

The Lions Gate-Summit deal was structured as a simultaneous sign and close, said David Eisman, corporate partner at Skadden Arps who represented Summit in the deal.

“In order for you to get to a deal, there’s a lot of discussions that go back and forth over the period of — in this case — many, many months, in order for you to get to any timeline whatsoever,” Eisman said.

After discussing the key points of the deal, the panelists took questions from students. David Friedman, deputy general counsel at Lions Gate and former general counsel at Summit, addressed the different roles filled by in-house and firm-based counsel.

“The in-house counsel has a role of communicating with management and its directors in terms of synthesizing down information,” Friedman said. “The board doesn’t really want to know what’s in a 150-page acquisition agreement — they just want to know what the issues are and what it means.”

Dean Robert K. Rasmussen, who opened the event, said that it demonstrates USC Law’s integration into the larger university community and the community of legal practitioners.

“The board doesn’t really want to know what’s in a 150-page acquisition agreement — they just want to know what the issues are and what it means.”

—Lori Craig

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That difference was noted by Richard Nanula and Justin Chang, the real-life principals behind Colony Capital’s acquisition of Miramax.

“A good attorney in a deal doesn’t just tell you what you can’t do,” Chang says. “He or she has to be able to tell you what you can do, to understand what you’re trying to achieve.”

Kamar and Weinstein, the professors who created the course, say they were delighted with how well the students developed.

“We saw a progression,” Kamar says. “Every week, the students implemented and incorporated into their work the lessons of the previous week. The teams became a lot more cooperative with each other than they were initially.”

Weinstein says he was inspired by his students.

“I had a fear that they’d be at the outer planets of the solar system, but by and large, they were spot on.”

Dean Rasmussen, who attended several of the deal presentations, noted that the class aims to prepare students to add value to their firms sooner.

“When I talk to the leaders of firms, the thing they say can be lacking on the part of new associates is the sense of context: what business are you representing, what does that client need out of this transaction?” he says. “Thanks to courses like this, when our students start their careers, they will be that much further ahead of the game.”

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WHAT I DID on my SUMMER VACATION...

After the academic year closes, USC Law students become summer associates and interns — working in law firms, government agencies and public interest organizations in a range of locales — finding time for a little fun along the way...
RACHEL HARPER ’12

IF, AS SHAKESPEARE WROTE, ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE, THEN RACHEL HARPER ’12 HAS ALREADY PLAYED MANY PARTS — AND IS EAGERLY LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE.

After college, the Mississippi native moved to Los Angeles to pursue an acting career, but an interest in international human rights led her to enroll at USC Law. Her internship at the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) in New York City last summer whetted her appetite to “speak for those who need a voice,” she says.

“I love my job,” Harper says. “There’s an intellectual stimulus here and I work with people who are committed to the work.”

CCR works on such issues as racial and gender equality, filing cases for detainees at Guantanamo and taking on persecution and other cases abroad.

“The work is so motivating because the issues are so important,” Harper says. “I’m surprised at how much of my classwork relates.”

Equally exciting for Harper was her summer in New York, living in Brooklyn and commuting by subway to her job near Greenwich Village. She says the locals were friendlier than she expected.

“I love the energy,” Harper says. “Some of my best stories have been from talking with strangers.”

Harper sought an internship in New York so she could learn about New York law and have a better idea where to seek a job. But she isn’t returning to L.A. yet. Harper is spending her 3L year earning an LL.M. at the London School of Economics.

And, because she won’t return to the U.S. in time to take the bar exam this year, Harper is considering internships at The Hague or elsewhere.

“It’s neat to daydream and imagine where you’d like to be.” — MARIA IACOBO

JAY PATEL ’12

JAY PATEL ’12 IS NOT YOUR TYPICAL “SEINFELD” AFICIONADO. WHEN HIS FAMILY IMMIGRATED TO PENNSYLVANIA FROM LONDON WHILE HE WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL, RE-RUNS WERE A WAY FOR PATEL TO MANAGE THE “CULTURE SHOCK.”

“It was a great way to acclimate to the U.S.,” Patel says. “You can’t place it in a time period. And, it’s always funny.”

After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania, Patel chose USC Law because of his interest in entertainment; law students can earn a certificate in Entertainment Law that includes coursework at the USC School of Cinematic Arts.

“I’ve been involved in music and the performing arts for a long time,” he says. “I’d always wanted to live in L.A. at some point in my life. I figured it would be a great opportunity to try something completely different.”

During his 1L summer, Patel worked for Universal Music Group’s legal department, enjoying “a crash course in world wide trademarks.”

The East Coast beckoned for Patel’s next summer. Participating in USC Law’s On-Campus Interview Program, he landed a job with Latham & Watkins.

“They encouraged us to explore as many different areas of law as possible to figure out what we’re good at and what we like,” says Patel, who worked a pro bono case, due diligence for transaction deals, and memos on licensing and ethical conduct for lawyers.

Patel accepted an offer from Latham at the end of the summer. “I really enjoyed the assignments I worked on and, just as importantly, I felt like I was a good fit for the firm.”

While in New York, Patel also indulged in Seinfeld lore, locating, among other spots, Monk’s Diner, H & H Bagels and the restaurant that inspired the “Soup Nazi” episode. After completing his final year at USC Law, Patel can continue his pursuit of all things Seinfeld. As a lawyer. — MARIA IACOBO
After graduating from George Washington University, he spent a year with NBC’s political unit in Washington, D.C. He spent another year editing the politics section on MSNBC’s website. Merten was a bit reluctant to leave the East Coast to attend USC Law and pursue a career as a litigator, but he has no regrets. “There’s something to be said for being in a more relaxed atmosphere, such as Southern California, during the extremely high stress of law school,” Merten says. “They sort of balance each other out.”

That first day was just a sample of the hands-on experience Al-Sarraf would get over the next 10 weeks. Working with Hoffman, Al-Sarraf and 13 other interns from across the country helped handle a number of international human rights cases.

The case for which Al-Sarraf edited the writ on his first day was against an oil company that had committed human rights abuses. The Supreme Court recently picked up the case. Another case involved a Guantánamo detainee and was brought in the D.C. circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals. “I researched the issues and found decisions that would help distinguish the case from previous ones in which the U.S. government was not held liable by claiming an exception to the Federal Tort Claims Act,” Al-Sarraf says.

Al-Sarraf entered USC Law with an interest in human rights and international policy. The Pasadena native holds a bachelor’s degree in International Studies from DePaul University. During his 1L year, he helped found the USC chapter of the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project. “Without the PILF grant, any work I could have done with Paul during the summer would have been on a part-time basis and I wouldn’t have gotten so much experience,” Al-Sarraf says. “Obviously, as a law student with no income, and only loans to speak of, my financial situation is definitely precarious, and the grant stabilized that.”

— LORI CRAIG

ANDREW MERTEN ’12

ANDREW MERTEN ’12 THRIVES IN A FAST-PACED ENVIRONMENT.

After graduating from George Washington University, he spent a year with NBC’s political unit in Washington, D.C. He spent another year editing the politics section on MSNBC’s website.

Merten was a bit reluctant to leave the East Coast to attend USC Law and pursue a career as a litigator, but he has no regrets. “There’s something to be said for being in a more relaxed atmosphere, such as Southern California, during the extremely high stress of law school,” Merten says. “They sort of balance each other out.”

Merten participated in a program, conducted by USC Law’s Career Services Office and run by a consortium of law schools, in which students submit their resumes to East Coast firms.

The day after his interview with Proskauer Rose, Merten was asked to be a summer associate. In a conference room with a grand view of the Empire State Building, Merten discusses the position and the training Proskauer provides summer associates. “I’ve gotten experience in a broad range of practice areas,” Merten says. “I participated in a mock trial and got great feedback from experienced litigators. You learn what goes into preparing to examine your clients and cross examine in a courtroom.”

Merten credits USC Law’s Post-Conviction Justice Project clinic for the opportunity to practice vital litigation skills. “You work on closing statements, you question your client in front of a parole board, you file habeas in trial court and appellate court,” he says.

Merten accepted an offer to work at Proskauer after graduation, putting him back on track in New York City, enjoying the ride of his life.

— MARIA IACOBO
MICHTELLE SHAFFIE ’13
TRANSACTIONAL LAW OR LITIGATION? PUBLIC SERVICE OR PRIVATE FIRM?

Michelle Shaffie ’13 may not have the answers to these questions after spending her 1L summer at the Alliance for Children’s Rights in Los Angeles, but thanks to the PILF grant that funded her 10-week position there, she better understands her options.

A Northern California native, Shaffie chose USC Law in part to explore just such opportunities.

“The PILF grant allowed me to do what I genuinely wanted to do and not worry about the money,” Shaffie says. “Without it, I probably would have had to find something else that could have funded me.”

As an intern in the Alliance’s public benefits department, Shaffie helped clients secure benefits they were entitled to.

“The inspiring part about it is that often caregivers and adoptive parents had no idea that they had been entitled to benefits after they took the children in,” she says. “It was very rewarding to be able to call them and say, ’I got x amount of money for you.’”

Shaffie says the work allowed her to support something she believes in while gaining substantive legal experience.

“At the beginning of summer, I was literally handed the same types of folders pro bono attorneys would be given,” she says. “I was told, ‘Figure out how we can best represent this client.’ I also got a lot of legal experience writing briefs and advocating in administrative court.”

Although she had considered a career in public service a possibility when she came to law school, Shaffie says she now expects to do such work even if she chooses a different career path. And she says she now is considering litigation over transactional law.

“It’s important to support PILF and public interest opportunities because they create well-rounded attorneys who are going to contribute significantly and positively to the legal community,” she says. “By allowing students to get the grant, people who otherwise wouldn’t be able to afford to pursue public interest work are able to.”

— DARREN SCHENCK

BEN GRAHAM ’13
THOSE WHO THINK CALIFORNIA IS UNIQUE AMONG THE 50 STATES SHOULD HEAR BEN GRAHAM ’13 TALK ABOUT MAINE.

Maine is its own little place,” Graham says. “This past summer, there was no pressure in my office. The general mentality of Maine is much more laid back than California. It’s more casual, more personable.”

A Maine native, Graham attended college in Louisiana and graduate school in California. He then spent nearly six years overseas, teaching English in China and South Korea.

When his 1L year at USC Law was complete, Graham got on his motorcycle and rode across the country to Mechanic Falls, Maine, his hometown, 40 miles from his internship in the capital, Augusta.

Graham received a PILF grant to work at the Maine Human Rights Commission. He investigated complaints of unlawful discrimination, predominantly employment discrimination.

“I had the chance to do a lot of writing and I was able to work face-to-face with clients,” he says. “It was a great experience.”

Graham read case files and met with claimants and employers to see if there were grounds for complaints to go before the commission.

“I could undertake mediations and negotiations on my own, which was challenging. Sometimes I could settle my cases, which gave me more of a sense of accomplishment.”

The experience piqued Graham’s interest in mediation and negotiation as well as international business transactions. Graham says he chose USC Law for the great faculty and the Trojan network. He recommends 1Ls learn about PILF grants early, especially if they are interested in public service.

Graham admits that the most enjoyable part of his summer was catching up with family, particularly several nieces and nephews who were born while he was globetrotting and helped “Uncle Ben” get reacquainted with the splendor of his home state.

“Maine is beautiful in the summer,” he says. “And there’s nothing like Maine lobster.”

— MARIA IACOBO
United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia visited the USC Gould School of Law on April 10, talking to 1Ls about what makes America free and expounding his judicial philosophy at an afternoon lecture.

Scalia was the guest professor for the entire first-year class the morning of his visit, opening his Constitutional Law lecture with a question.

“What makes America the “freest country in the world?” he asked, before speculating that most students in the room — as well as most people in the country — would say it is the Bill of Rights.

But it’s not, according to Scalia.

“If you think for a minute, is it not the case that every dictator in the world has a bill of rights, every banana republic, every republic has a bill of rights?” Scalia said. Even the bill of rights for the former Soviet Union, on paper, “was wonderful; it was better than ours.”

What’s more important is the structure of our government, the separation of powers that is built into the United States Constitution, he said.

“We are the only country in the world where the executive is not the tool, is not the creature, of the legislature,” Scalia said. “We not only have a separately elected president, we give him veto power so he’s essentially the most powerful vote in Congress.”

The divide between the branches of the federal government and the two-party system makes passing legislation very difficult — but that’s the point, Scalia said.

“The framers would have said, ‘Yes, this is just the way we wanted it,’ because they thought the principal protection of minorities lay in the difficulty of passing legislation,” he said.

That’s where the doctrine of standing comes in. It might seem dull, but standing is a significant aspect of the separation of powers, Scalia said. American judges are given a tremendous amount of power, but thanks to limits on who can sue and why, few issues merit judicial review.

For example, “I think it’s got to be unconstitutional not to publish the CIA’s accounting, but that’ll never come to court,” he said.

Later in the day, Scalia had lunch with faculty and students, and he met with representatives of the USC Law Federalist Society. That afternoon, he delivered the 2012 Justice Lester
W. Roth Lecture at Town and Gown, where he used the opportunity to extol the virtues of originalism and to discredit the concept of “the living Constitution.”

Addressing an audience of more than 500 USC Law students, alumni, faculty and staff, Scalia said he believes in adhering to the text of the Constitution.

“I do find it peculiar when people ask, ‘When did you first become an originalist?’” he said. “It seems to me a perfectly natural way to look at texts. The words in the Constitution have the meaning they had at the time they were written.”

Scalia likened his reading of the Constitution to the manner in which we approach the works of Shakespeare: with a glossary that reveals the 16th- and 17th-century meanings of words commonly used today.

He took umbrage with the argument that the Constitution must draw meaning from “evolving standards of decency which mark the maturing of society,” a reference to a 1958 Supreme Court ruling in *Trop v. Dulles*.

“The founders wanted to enshrine values in the Constitution so future generations couldn’t change it,” he said.

Many issues that come before the Supreme Court are best left to the people to decide through their representatives in state legislatures and Congress, Scalia said.

“Why would you want nine lawyers to decide on issues like abortion and assisted suicide?” he said. “We don’t learn about that in law school.”

Ultimately, originalism is the only theory that produces criteria to which judges can be held, Scalia said, calling it “the only game in town.

“The Constitution doesn’t mean anything if it means what the majority wants it to mean.”

After the lecture, students and alumni attended a reception in Crocker Plaza.

“I expected not to like the guy at all, but I thought he was great, he was very logical, very personable, very likeable,” Ryan Evans ’13 said. “His perspective has the appeal of being simple and solid, where the living Constitution tends to go with the majority’s opinion, which in our political climate is not necessarily the best for everybody.”

Scalia’s appearance marked the second year in a row that a Supreme Court Justice has visited USC Law. Last year, the law school hosted Justice Anthony Kennedy for a two-day visit to USC.
Lessons from Lee Epstein

Professor installed as the first Rader Family Chair in Law

By Maria Iacobo

The USC Gould School of Law installed Prof. Lee Epstein as the inaugural holder of the Rader Family Trustee Chair in Law, formally welcoming the internationally recognized scholar of law and judicial politics to USC. Epstein, who holds a joint appointment in the USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, joined USC from Northwestern University School of Law last fall.

“Any way you measure it, Lee Epstein is a superstar,” says Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. “You cannot think about the political economy of the judiciary without thinking about the contributions of Lee Epstein. She has revolutionized the field.”

Epstein is a provost professor — one of only 10 at USC — whose work is characterized by outstanding interdisciplinary research and education. She is the recipient of 12 National Science Foundation grants for her work on law and legal institutions and is the prolific author of more than 100 articles and essays and 14 books. Epstein pioneered the application of empirical analysis to judicial decision-making.

In her remarks to her colleagues, family and friends, Epstein reflected on four key lessons she has learned in her career. In doing so, Epstein shared the passion she brings to her teaching and research and the excitement she derives from participating in a vibrant academic community.

Epstein’s first lesson was to “ask questions that not only contribute to existing knowledge, but that also engage the real world — in my case, questions that help people better understand law and legal institutions so that they can make better choices,” she said.

Her second lesson focused on the benefits that all scholars can achieve by being part of a major research university. Epstein said she continues “to marvel every day” at her good fortune of working at a university, “where knowledge is there for the taking.

“The advancement of knowledge depends on an active community of scholars working together in cooperation and, yes, competition. Interdisciplinarity and ‘interprofessionality’ are not just buzz words; they are crucial to innovation and discovery.”

Having learned to ask interesting questions and to find the relevant tools to address them, Epstein’s third lesson was to be fearless.

“Follow the rules and follow the evidence, wherever they may lead,” Epstein said. “We all have intuitions and they have a role to play in research. But, our intuitions can lead us terribly astray… Oddly enough, our gut reactions are even worse when we’re experts on a topic precisely because we have too much information, too many pre-commitments and too much confidence.”

The final lesson: Fearlessness needs to be accompanied by humility, she said.

“There’s some tendency to think that the kinds of statistical models I use can supply certain and ready answers to questions, like: How many justices will vote to uphold the health care law? Or, would the Senate confirm Diane Wood were Obama to nominate her to the Supreme Court? But it’s precisely the opposite. All conclusions [I reach] are uncertain to a degree.”

Lee Epstein, left, with Steve Rader ’81
How is tax law similar to one of literature’s longest novels? Prof. Nancy Staudt has a theory: Both are never-ending stories told in intricate detail.

“If people who like tax law enjoy reading literature, they tend to read novels such as Proust’s ‘Remembrance of Things Past’ in seven volumes,” Staudt says. “So many tax people love that book. It involves intricate, detailed stories. And that’s the tax code: an intricate story told by Congress in numerous volumes. It’s never-ending, it affects every facet of life, the policies never stop evolving.”

Staudt, a committed teacher and renowned tax policy scholar, joined USC Law from Northwestern University Law School last year and was recently installed as the inaugural holder of the Edward G. Lewis Chair in Law this spring. Lewis, a 1970 USC Law graduate and a member of the school’s Board of Councilors, ran a successful solo practice in corporate and real estate law.

“Edward Lewis’ generosity and great success in the legal profession serves as inspiration to our academic community,” said Elizabeth Garrett, USC provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, and Francis R. and John J. Duggan professor of law, political science and public policy.

Garrett said it was crucial to identify an influential scholar who also shares Lewis’ “passion and devotion to connecting the law with business and society. Nancy examines some of the most pressing issues facing our country today. Her most recent work brings empirical methodology to judicial decision-making with a special focus on fiscal issues.

“This chair endowment makes clear Mr. Lewis’ passion for the advancement of legal studies and, as he has stated, it is a gesture of his gratitude to great scholars and mentors of the past.”

Lewis noted that when he was a student there was only one female law professor on the faculty: Judge Dorothy Nelson, dean of USC Law from 1969 to ’79, who joined Lewis at the installation. Lewis spoke reverently of his former professor, citing her as his mentor.

“She taught me to give back to the law school,” Lewis said. “But the most important thing Judge Nelson gave me was my mojo. She gave me my attitude and the self-confidence to get something done.”

Staudt, who earned her J.D. from the University of Minnesota and her Ph.D. in public policy from the University of Chicago, has published extensively on tax and tax policy-making decisions made by Congress and the judiciary. She has a joint teaching appointment with the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy.

“I’ve talked to Prof. Staudt’s students and they are inspired by her infectious enthusiasm and charisma and they are impressed by her detailed knowledge of the tax code,” said Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. “She is simply one of those faculty members who through her scholarship, teaching and service makes any institution that she is a part of a much better place.”

from left: Edward G. Lewis ’70, Judge Dorothy Nelson ’56, Dean Robert K. Rasmussen, Nancy Staudt
For the Record

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit reviewed and affirmed the judgment of the U.S. District Court that Proposition 8 was unconstitutional. What were the key issues in the decision? Where might the case go from here?

PROF. DAVID CRUZ

Prop. 8’s defenders have asked the Ninth Circuit for rehearing en banc of the three-judge panel’s decision holding the measure unconstitutional. Although they’ve tried to claim that Judge Reinhardt’s opinion both disregards binding Ninth Circuit precedent and creates a circuit split in the treatment of laws excluding same-sex couples from civil marriage, the arguments are somewhat strained, and if anything would lead the court to grant rehearing it would likely be the importance of the issue. That’s where the narrowness of the opinion may factor in: Because its reasoning was so carefully tied to the specific context of how the law evolved in California, it has less significance for any other state or jurisdiction. While the Ninth Circuit could revisit the case with an 11-judge en banc panel, it also might well leave the original decision alone. Even the decision whether or not to rehear the case could take months as all the active judges consider the parties’ briefs and each other’s argument.

Whatever the Ninth Circuit decides could be the end of the road for the case. If it denies review or if it hears the case but then affirms the panel’s decision and reasoning (and there’s little reason to think a panel would wish to strike down Prop. 8 on broader grounds), the narrowness and lack of circuit split could well lead the U.S. Supreme Court to exercise its discretion to decline to hear the case, especially as the somewhat polarized “wings” of the Court might each have doubt as to how Justice Kennedy might view the matter. In that case, same-sex couples could again finally marry in California. Alternatively, if an extremely conservative en banc panel gets randomly drawn and they uphold Prop. 8 under rational basis review (as the law assuredly could not survive heightened scrutiny), the same uncertainty could again lead the Supreme Court to take a pass.

Of course, if the Supreme Court does hear the decision, marriage rights will remain on hold until it delivers its decision, almost certainly with a dissent no matter whether it upholds or invalidates Prop. 8.

PROF. REBECCA BROWN, NEWTON PROFESSOR OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

The Ninth Circuit did a good job in Perry v. Brown. It focused on the facts of the case, did not yield to temptations to be dramatic or stretch the law. Indeed, it did exactly what we want a court to do when considering an Equal Protection challenge: it considered carefully the interests that the state offered in support of its unequal treatment, and insisted that they be genuine and germane. That is the Constitution’s principal protection against unlawful inequality: states can make distinctions among people, but only for good reasons. Mere disfavor of a group is never a good enough reason; the reason must serve the common good of all the people.

On that score, Prop. 8 could not survive. The interests offered in support, such as alleged negative social consequences of households headed by same-sex couples, were not relevant because Prop. 8 did not eliminate such households, and had no effect on the bundle of property, parenting and companionship rights that support those families. The only thing Prop. 8 did was to prevent the couples from acquiring the title of marriage. Under the law, then, it was the state’s burden to offer a good reason for this pure diminishment of status. The court found that the state had not produced such a reason.

From a constitutional theory perspective, the virtue of this approach is that it pays tribute to the basic principle in our democracy that equality can be compromised only as truly necessary to the common good. Yet the court went no further, creating no new rights but instead modestly applying existing principles of law. This decision does a service to judicial legitimacy with an incremental approach to societal change that is, ultimately, most likely to command long-term acceptance as constitutional law.
MOVING BEYOND THE HARVARD MODEL

Since the 19th century, law schools everywhere have used the case law method to teach students to think like a lawyer. But faculty at USC are creating new ways to prepare students for the practice of law.

Hearkening to the USC Gould School of Law’s roots as an innovator in legal education, this spring Dean Robert K. Rasmussen charged the Task Force on Legal Education to imagine in broad, sky’s-the-limit terms how the school might enhance its curriculum so students are ready to apply legal skills upon graduation.

A report on the Task Force’s recently released findings will appear in the next issue of USC Law Magazine. Meanwhile, on the next few pages, read about two Task Force members who are shaping the future of legal education: Prof. Gillian Hadfield, who chaired the committee, and Lecturer in Law Michael Roster.
On the first day of his Advanced Contracts class, USC Law Lecturer Michael Roster does something unconventional for his 3L students. He shows them a contract.

“What’s remarkable — and this is not unique to USC — is that our students take first-year contracts, real estate law and corporations law, and they’ve never seen a contract,” says Roster, who has served as general counsel for Stanford University, Stanford Medical Center and Golden West Financial Corporation. “When I mention this to non-lawyers, they look at me in disbelief.”

Like all USC Law lecturers, Roster was recruited for his deep experience as a high-performing practitioner in the legal world. Prior to his work as in-house counsel, he was the managing partner for Morrison & Foerster’s Los Angeles office and co-chair of the firm’s Financial Services Practice Group worldwide.

In Advanced Contracts, Roster requires students to analyze contracts from day one and later work in teams. Students not only draft contracts but also present them to their classmates. Roster’s goal is to enable students to teach themselves and learn from each other. By the time the class ends, he expects that each student will be competent to practice contracts law at the level of a six-month to one-year associate — although most students, he says, are at a two- or three-year attorney level.

“By the end of the course, I could have put any of their work product in front of any of my former clients, and they would have been very pleased with it,” he says.

Roster’s interest in producing practice-ready graduates goes well beyond one class at USC Law. As former chair of the Association of Corporate Counsel, he was instrumental in the implementation of the ACC Value Challenge, an ongoing effort to better connect the cost of legal services to value by offering ideas for improving the way legal work is billed and managed.

“Four years ago, no one talked in terms of value with legal services. Now, all the marketing materials from firms talk about value,” he says.

An attorney whose career predates the advent of the billable hour in the late 1970s, Roster is concerned that top law schools are still teaching from the case-law method developed at Harvard in the 19th century.

“We need to keep teaching students to think like lawyers, but in today’s world that means to think like practicing lawyers.”

Read an expanded version of this story at law.usc.edu/ThinkingLikeALawyer
When she first started teaching in 1991, Gillian Hadfield noticed that there was something wrong with the way that law schools were going about preparing students.

“Through the current model of legal education, most students are trained to think like an appellate judge,” says Hadfield, who has taught at USC Law since 2001.

Her solution? Shift from the traditional paradigm of constant case reading and cold-calling and immerse students in active problem-solving.

In fact, she discourages the traditional fact recitation that Prof. Kingsfield made famous in “The Paper Chase.”

“We need to do is to teach students to think like practicing lawyers, figuring out how to deploy the law to help a client reach an objective,” says Hadfield, the Richard L. and Antoinette Schamoi Kirtland Professor of Law and Professor of Economics.

To that end, Hadfield this past academic year chaired an ad hoc Task Force on Legal Education to “consider the ways, if any, in which the faculty should alter our approach to legal education in light of the various changes that are occurring in the profession.” The Task Force also included Profs. Michael Chasalow, Edward Kleinbard and Nina Walton; Lecturers Bry Danner and Michael Roster; Director of Career Services Matt DeGrushe; and alumnus Brian Cabrera ’90, vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary at Synopsys, Inc.

“We set ourselves two major goals,” Hadfield says. “First, to understand the picture of what our students are learning now. Second, to open up the lens to consider how we might do things differently. The pressure to respond to changes in the profession has only accelerated over the past year and we want USC to forge a path forward for our students and their ultimate clients.”

Over the last 20 years, Hadfield has perfected her problem-based teaching methods while eschewing the traditional models of lecturing and pure Socratic method. She applies it in all of her classes, including first-year Contracts and an Advanced Contracts elective course.

“So how exactly does a typical class of Hadfield’s work?”

In her Contracts course, Hadfield looks to help her students understand what the practice of contract law is truly
First-year students work in groups on the problems facing hypothetical clients, applying the cases they’ve read in a standard contracts casebook.

In her upper-year contracts class, there are no casebooks or assigned readings. Instead, she gives students redacted materials from real contracts matters and has them work in teams of four to solve specific problems. It’s up to the students to figure out what they think are the issues facing their hypothetical client and then to figure out how to help them achieve their goals.

It’s a different approach. But in Hadfield’s eyes it is more effective than having students memorize things like every detail in the backstory of Carlill v. Carbolic Smoke Ball Co.

“My practice is to ask my class ‘What’s the issue?’ or ‘Who is suing whom and why?‘” Hadfield says. “I find that students, no matter what I ask, will often start summarizing the case.

“But I really don’t want them to just repeat all the facts of the case. I want to get straight to what the issues are. I only want facts in the context of talking about issues.”

According to Hadfield, who also directs the Southern California Innovation Project and co-directs the Center in Law, Economics, and Organization, students are usually taken aback initially by her novel style, but they ultimately enjoy and appreciate her teaching methods.

Hadfield recalls one student who approached her before final exams. The student confided that Hadfield’s final was the one she felt most relaxed about, because she knew exactly what to expect and how to go about completing it, given the way that Hadfield taught the course.

“The reception is usually very good from students, especially in the upper-year courses because those students have chosen to be taught this way and to work in teams,” Hadfield says.

“Some of the feedback I hear is that students feel anxious early on with my approach, but by the end of the course, they usually appreciate it. And two-and-a-half years from now, when they are starting to work for clients, they get what I was trying to do.”

Since she began employing her methods in the early 1990s, Hadfield has gained national recognition for her outside-of-the-box approach. She is a fellow of and member of the advisory committee for Educating Tomorrow’s Lawyers (ETL), an organization that aims to improve the future of legal education by both encouraging and facilitating schools to employ innovation within the classroom.

“The pressure to respond to changes in the profession has only accelerated over the past year and we want USC to forge a path forward for our students and their ultimate clients.”

Ultimately, Hadfield views her shift in style as necessary when it comes to preparing the next generation of lawyers.

“I first noticed this disconnect between teaching and learning (when it came to the traditional model of teaching) when I was a law student myself,” Hadfield says. “When I started teaching 20 years ago I thought things needed to change.

“Today the need is even more urgent. The practice of law increasingly requires creativity, judgment and a focus on client goals, especially when it comes to something like contract law. Today’s students need to know things like what a contract looks like in the real world and how to think about the strategies involved in contract drafting, interpretation, performance and dispute management. Not just how to argue a contracts case on appeal.”

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Aaron Ginsburg ’14 always wanted to be a lawyer. And he knows that he wants to practice civil litigation when he graduates. But when he arrived at USC Law last fall, he wasn’t as sure about the route to his goal.

Thanks to the 175 alumni who participated in this year’s Mentor Lunch, Ginsburg and some 150 other students now have a better idea of which courses to take over the next two years, what summer opportunities to pursue and even the type of day-to-day work ethic the profession calls for.

“Mentor Lunch is a good opportunity to talk to people who are in the business and can offer solid, practical advice,” Ginsburg said. “We talked about legal writing, how to present myself in job markets, how to continue networking, why it’s so important to be a part of the Trojan Family, and how to keep in touch with these attorneys as mentors.”

The annual luncheon seats alumni with first-year students according to professional interest. As Dean Robert K. Rasmussen noted in his welcoming remarks, the high rate of alumni participation in the event reflects the strength of the Trojan network.

“No other law school in the country could pull this off once,” he said. “We pull it off every year.”

Much of the advice Ginsburg received came from Frank Gooch III ’76, a partner at Gilchrist & Rutter in Santa Monica. An accomplished litigator and four-time Southern California “Super Lawyer,” Gooch has attended more than 10 Mentor Lunch events.

Gooch said that Mentor Lunch and other events such as the Small & Mid-Sized Firm Reception and the Alumni Mock Interview Program represent a more collegial approach to legal education than that which he experienced.

“In the mid-70s, it was a more cut-throat environment. The school today is positive and upbeat,” he said. “The atmosphere Dean Rasmussen has created is phenomenal.”

Erin McCann ’09, an attorney with the Law Offices of Ellen F. Driscoll in Pasadena, has attended the event every year since graduation, largely because she enjoyed the lunch when she was a 1L. She encouraged alumni to experience it as mentors.

“It’s a valuable experience to meet students and fellow graduates,” she said. “And it shows the commitment alumni have to the school.”
HONOR ROLL

Kerry Bensinger ’87, a named partner of Bensinger Ritt Tai and Thvedt since 1995, was appointed to a Los Angeles Superior Court judgeship by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke ’56 was nominated by President Barack Obama as director of AMTRAK’s Board of Directors. Burke is currently a member of the Committee on Congressional Ethics as well as the California Transportation Commission.

Mark Diamond ’80 joined Rimon’s Private Investment Funds Group as a partner. Diamond has practiced corporate and securities law for over 30 years.

Karen Feld ’92 was named one of California’s Top Women Attorneys by the Daily Journal in 2011 and was named a “Super Lawyer” by Los Angeles magazine in 2012. Feld serves as vice chair of the Real Estate Development & Land Use Practice Group at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP.

Alison P. Gomer ’11 joined Best Best & Krieger’s Ontario office, where she will be working in the firm’s municipal practice on land use planning, zoning issues and appropriation limits.

Nowland C. Hong ’59 and his late father, Y.C. Hong ’24, were honored by the Los Angeles County Bar Association as “Trailblazers of the Bar.” Y.C. Hong was the first Chinese American to pass the California Bar Exam, and Nowland, of counsel with Best Best & Krieger LLP, was a founder and early leader of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association.

Conrad Mallett ’79, president and CEO of Sinai–Grace Hospital, was appointed to Detroit’s “Financial Review Team,” a group tasked with reviewing the city’s troubled finances on behalf of Gov. Rick Snyder.

Negin Mirmirani ’00 joined Major, Lindsey & Africa as a director in its Los Angeles office. Mirmirani previously was in-house counsel for Warner Bros’ studio facilities division.

Zein Obagi ’08 is a candidate for California’s new 33rd Congressional District, which spans the coast from Malibu to the Palos Verdes peninsula. Obagi has worked as a business attorney in several Los Angeles law firms.

Glenn Sonnenberg ’80 was appointed to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission. Sonnenberg has been president of Latitude Management Real Estate Investors since 2000 and previously served on the USC Board of Trustees.

Brendan Starkey ’05 joined the University of California at Irvine’s law faculty as a research law librarian for instructional services. Starkey was previously a reference librarian at Irell & Manella LLP.

Robert N. Stone ’59, a partner at Stone, Dolginer & Wenzel, is serving as the 2012 president of the American Board of Trial Advocates, a national organization of 6,700 trial lawyers.

A book written by Rhonda B. Saunders ’82 is being made into a movie by the Lifetime Movie Network. “Whisper of Fear: The True Story of the Prosecutor who Stalks the Stalkers” (Berkley Press 2008), co-authored with Stephen G. Michaud, is based on Saunders’ life and her work handling stalking cases in the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office. Watch for the movie later this year.

Saunders has been a criminal prosecutor for 25 years. She established the D.A.’s Stalking and Threat Assessment Team and the L.A. Stalking Task Force, and helped write California’s stalking laws, which are emulated worldwide. Her work has benefited some of the most recognizable names in the entertainment industry, including Madonna, whose stalker recently escaped from a mental hospital before being found and returned.

The danger to victims is increasing along with the popularity of social media, Saunders says.
When Randy Sinnott ’82 was in seventh grade visiting his school library just outside St. Louis, Mo., he did what any 12-year-old might do: He got distracted and stumbled upon a book about Harry Houdini.

“I had no idea who he was, but I opened it up and saw there were cool pictures of him in handcuffs and being thrown off a bridge, and that got me interested in magic,” Sinnott says.

The distraction turned into a life-long pursuit for the self-taught magician, who would visit the hardware store to buy padlocks and chains and perform escapes for neighbors. Today, he prefers close-up magic, his favorite tricks involving coins or cards, which he often carries with him in case an opportunity to perform presents itself.

“One thing I always observe is, people who are smart and know they’re smart will always think that they can’t be fooled by magic, so to fool those people has more of an impact,” Sinnott says.

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Civic Business

John Iino ’87 reconnects with L.A. after life on the road

By Darren Schenck

As chair of Reed Smith’s Business & Finance Department, John Iino ’87 traveled the world, building relationships with attorneys and clients at each of the firm’s 23 offices. Recently appointed managing partner for Reed Smith’s Los Angeles office, he now can stow the luggage and focus on making connections in the city where he grew up.

“I spent most of my time on an airplane the last two years,” Iino says. “New York, London, Chicago, Hong Kong, Shanghai. Now I serve as the face of the firm for the L.A. community with clients and organizations like USC.”

Iino draws on his global perspective and wide-ranging experience in business law as he helps lead Reed Smith through a period of change and innovation in legal services. He says that corporate clients increasingly favor fixed-fee and alternative fee arrangements (AFAs) that require attorneys to master new information technology and project management systems.

“We were innovative in being responsive to clients, and I’ve been personally involved in our roll-out of AFAs as well as legal project management,” Iino says.

He remains head of Reed Smith’s Japan Business Team.

“I’ve been able to bring to clients an understanding of the business side,” he says. “Having run a $400 million-a-year division, in addition to telling you what the law says, I understand in a very real way the client’s business concerns and priorities.”

In addition to focusing on a client’s business, Iino says, young lawyers need to learn the business of being a lawyer.

“It’s about developing a book of business, developing your network, growing your practice, all of which is so important for lawyers to succeed,” he says.

Iino recently was named to the USC Alumni Association Board of Governors and serves on the board of directors for the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association. He has also contributed pro bono support to a project originating with the USC Rossier School of Education: USC Hybrid High. The recently chartered school combines classroom and online instruction for students who hold jobs or are caring for loved ones.

He also participates in his USC Law class reunion and the on-campus interviewing program.

“I still have very vivid memories of great classes like Con Law with Erwin Chemerinsky and Crim Pro with Charlie Whitebread,” he says. “They changed my way of thinking.”

usc law family >> alumni profiles

30 USCLaw magazine
Among the lessons Alexandra Bodnar ’96 received at USC Law is a particularly important one for a management-side employment lawyer.

“Probably the most valuable experience at USC was having class discussions on policy issues, because people had such different political viewpoints and theories of the world,” says Bodnar, who in January joined labor and employment firm Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart as a shareholder in the firm's Los Angeles office. “You learned how to express your opinion, hear other people's opinions and have a civil and productive dialogue. That's a skill you need as a lawyer.”

Along with a sense of humor to handle some colorful characters, Bodnar says.

“If an employer fires an employee in California, that employee will find a lawyer,” she says. “And there is a range in quality of lawyer. So you have to be able to deal with them — lawyers of all different strengths, let's say.”

Bodnar's forte is class-action wage and hour work, defending employers in wrongful termination cases and representing employers in litigation with former employees who have misappropriated trade secrets. She also counsels employers so they can avoid litigation and stay in compliance with California's “unique” employment laws.

“California is probably one of the most employee-friendly states,” Bodnar says. “It has a labor code that's the size of a dictionary, so there's always something employers are going to do wrong, even with the best of intentions.”

There also is a lot of human drama, which drew Bodnar to labor and employment law.

“I thought, ‘I can't believe people get paid to do this,'” she says. “As an employment lawyer, you're both reactive and proactive: You're helping employers before they run into trouble and you're defending them in litigation when they do get into trouble. You feel more like a trusted advisor to your clients. And the reality is that in employment cases, it's always an issue of personality. Sometimes it's actually more important to the client than the commercial dispute because they're more invested in it.”

In 1998, Bodnar joined Squires Sanders & Dempsey to focus solely on employment issues. She became a partner and head of the L.A. office's labor and employment group before joining Ogletree Deakins.

Once she is fully settled into the new job, Bodnar hopes to indulge two of her passions — traveling and photography.

“Every year I try to take one trip where no one can find me, like hiking Machu Picchu or visiting the Galápagos Islands,” Bodnar says. “Last year, I went to Tunisia right after the Jasmine Revolution. It was so interesting to see this post-revolution country, and they were so excited to have Westerners there, but we were the only tourists taking a post-revolution trip.”
The downtown Los Angeles skyline holds the story of Vince Gonzales’ ’87 legal career.

As senior environmental counsel for Southern California Gas Company, a Sempra Energy Utility, Gonzales since 2000 has worked in the company’s offices at Fifth Street and Grand Avenue. From his desk, Gonzales can see the building two blocks southwest where he spent 10 years and one day as in-house counsel for Atlantic Richfield Company, ARCO. One block northwest, also visible from his office, is the building that houses O’Melveny & Myers, whose corporation department Gonzales joined after law school.

“You could say I’ve been around,” Gonzales says.

He resides with his wife, son and daughter in Orange County and commutes in his carpool-lane-permitted natural gas vehicle. He says environmentally friendly transportation is typical of today’s utility company employees.

“Many don’t understand that people who work in large companies today grew up in a time when everyone was really starting to care about the environment. We have that culture here at SoCalGas of working to meet the needs of our customers while protecting the environment,” Gonzales says. “About 33 percent of Sempra’s downtown employees take public transportation. We recycle; we conserve energy; we carpool and drive hybrids and natural gas vehicles.”

Gonzales happened into environmental law at O’Melveny, when he “got all the stuff no one else wanted to do.” He developed a specialty in and enjoyed environmental work, joining ARCO to focus solely on environmental matters. At SoCalGas, he concentrates on air quality issues.

“The environment has always been important to me. And what’s more important is the balance between our use of natural resources to better our lives and making sure we don’t deplete them or impact them in such a way that our children suffer,” Gonzales says. “I prefer working for a company as an environmental attorney to find productive ways to get that balance. It’s trying to find ways to live and work well while under certain constraints.”

Practicing in house allows Gonzales to remain active in a number of professional organizations. The Association for Corporate Counsel named him Member of the Year in 2007. In 2000, ACC’s Southern California Chapter named him Pro Bono Counsel of the Year for his contributions to the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California, where he serves on the board of directors. His longtime friend Pauline Aranas ’81, associate dean and acting dean of library and information technology at USC Law, has served on the board as well.

“Vince takes an active role in mentoring, and you can see that throughout his career,” says Aranas, who was Gonzales’ “best person” at his 1992 wedding. “When he was a student here, he would mentor other students within the Asian Pacific American law students group as well as those on law review. He’s also mentored through ACC, because he believes in helping young professionals understand their role and guiding them on how to be effective as in-house lawyers.”
REMEMBERING ALBERT BRECHT

A leader in the field of law librarianship and pioneer in the use of technology for legal research

By Maria Iacobo

Albert Brecht, associate dean, chief information officer and John Stauffer Professor of Law at USC Law, died at his home in Los Angeles on March 26, 2012. He was 65.

A trailblazer in the field of law librarianship and the profession’s advancement through technology, Brecht was appointed the director of USC’s law library at the age of 28 in 1975. In an interview with the Southern California chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (SCALL), he said, “Supervising staff who were significantly older than me was a big challenge, and it was scary at first, but when I reflect back, how did I manage to be director so young — youthful ego and at the right place at the right time!”

Brecht was a pioneer in the use of information technology in the field and specialized in computerized legal research and the expanding role of law librarians in the scholarly pursuits of faculty.

“During these nearly 40 years, Albert transformed how we think of law libraries through his singular focus on service,” said Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. “Albert was the gold standard of both librarians and friends. He will truly be missed.”

Brecht did not know anyone in California when he arrived at USC in 1972. He credited the Trojan Family for welcoming him to its campus and returned the favor by being an active member of its community.

Brecht was an early member of USC Lambda LGBT Alumni Association and served two terms as its president. He oversaw the inaugural scholarship fundraising campaign and launched signature events such as a campus-wide run/walk fundraiser and an annual picnic at the Hollywood Bowl.

In 2008, his service to USC Lambda was recognized with the USC Alumni Association President’s Award.

Brecht served the law library profession as a past president of both the American Association of Law Libraries and the Southern California Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Brecht earned his B.A. at North Texas State University and his J.D. at the University of Houston. He developed a strong interest in law librarianship when he was working as a part-time student assistant in reference while attending law school, and he later earned his master’s degree in law librarianship at the University of Washington. In 1973, he was appointed assistant law librarian at USC under the direction of Francis Gates. In 1975, after Gates left to head Columbia Law Library, Brecht was appointed director of USC’s law library.

A memorial service was held at USC in May. Find more information, read tributes or submit your own tribute to Brecht at law.usc.edu/brecht

“During these nearly 40 years, Albert transformed how we think of law libraries through his singular focus on service.”

— Dean Robert K. Rasmussen
in memoriam

Donald P. Kennedy ’48 died on March 24, 2012, at the age of 93. Kennedy studied political science at Stanford University. He served in the Navy during World War II before attending USC Law. After graduation, he joined his family business, First American Financial Corp., which became one of the world’s largest title insurers. He also served as chairman of the Bowers Museum of Cultural Art in Santa Ana. Kennedy is survived by his wife of 65 years, Dorothy; son, Parker; daughters, Elizabeth and Amy; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Ernest J. Seymour ’49 died May 5, 2011, at the age of 88. Seymour served in the U.S. Navy for 12 years and established a family law practice. He was a member of Cardinal & Gold and one of six founding members of the Trojan Baseball Boosters. He also co-founded St. Timothy’s Episcopal Day School in Compton, Calif. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Helen; son, Mark; daughter, Jan; and two grandchildren.

Gertrude G. Thaxter ’49 died May 16, 2011.

Stanley J. Bell ’51 died on Jan. 6, 2011, at the age of 89. Bell attended Washington State University until he served in the Navy during World War II. After the war, he attended and graduated from Stanford University. He opened a personal injury law practice and held offices in Northern and Southern California. He is survived by his wife, Rita; his children, Steven, Susan, Edward and James; and seven grandchildren.

William F. Davies ’53 died Dec. 30, 2011, at the age of 84. Davies was a midshipman at the California Maritime Academy and a sergeant in the U.S. Army. He earned a B.A. from San Diego State University. After attending USC Law, Davies became a prosecutor in the criminal division of the San Diego District Attorney’s office. He later entered private practice, where he worked for many years until retirement. He is survived by his sons, Bill and Steve; and nine grandchildren.

Raoul P. Esnard Jr. ’54 died Sept. 1, 2011, at the age of 86. Esnard served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He obtained his undergraduate and law degrees at USC. Esnard worked for most of his legal career as a deputy district attorney in Los Angeles County. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Audrey; sons Dwight and Glendon; daughters, Catherine, Allyn, Adrienne and Mau- reen; 18 grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

Berrien H. Findlay ’54 died on May 28, 2011, at the age of 83. Findlay served in the U.S. Navy and graduated from Stanford University. While at USC Law, he served as editor of the Law Review and graduated first in his class. He worked as an attorney in San Bernardino for more than 35 years and was a member of the local planning commission.

Donald W. Killian Jr. ’55 died on Jan. 2, 2012, at the age of 82. Killian received his undergraduate and law degrees from USC. Killian worked in private practice in Santa Ana and in Newport Beach. The Supreme Court of California and the State Bar of California recently honored him for 50 years of service. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Annabelle; son, Doug; daughter, Julie; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son, Don III.

Fred A. Howser ’60 died Sept. 11, 2011, at the age of 74. Howser worked for more than 30 years as an attorney in Newport Beach at Howser, Gertner & Brown. For more than 50 years, he organized an annual fishing trip for his friends from USC Law. He is survived by his sons, Fritz and Peter; his daughter, Donelle; and seven grandchildren.

Tom Murrin ’63 died March 12, 2012, at the age of 73. A California native, Murrin graduated from USC Law and worked in private practice in Beverly Hills before continuing his legal studies at New York University. During that time, he also wrote several plays for an alternative theatre scene that later became known as “Off Off Broadway.” He eventually became a full-time performer, under the stage names Tom Trash and the Alien Comic. He is survived by his wife, Patricia.

Bill Rutter has educated more law students and lawyers than anyone in his generation. He was the preeminent legal educator of his time.”

—Dean Robert K. Rasmussen
Jack Goodwin '65 died Oct. 8, 2011. He was 89.

Thomas H. Russell '65 died Feb. 8, 2012. He was 71. He obtained his undergraduate and law degrees from USC. Upon graduation, he opened a private practice, which he ran until retiring in 2009. He served as vice president of the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission, a board member of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, and president of the Log Cabin Republican Club. He is survived by his partner of 32 years, Jerry Habel.

Stephen G. Gooch '66 died on May 31, 2011. He was 70. Gooch graduated from Stanford University before attending USC Law. He worked as a contract lawyer for 32 years at C.F. Braun & Co. He is survived by his partner, Bev; son, John; and two grandchildren.

R. Dennis French '67 died on Dec. 29, 2011, at the age of 68. He received a B.S. from Stanford University. After graduating from USC Law, he served in the National Guard for six years before joining the Los Angeles Public Defender's Office. French later established a private practice in Van Nuys. He is survived by his wife, Stella; sons, Fred, Ken and Nick; and four grandchildren.

Terry R. Perkins '72 died May 27, 2011, at the age of 64. Perkins obtained both his B.A. and J.D. from USC and was an avid fan of USC football. Perkins retired in 2008 as vice president of Pacific Life’s Advanced Design Department. He is survived by his wife, Maureen, and son, Todd.

Stephen A. Catalano '77 died Sept. 22, 2011. He was 68. Catalano graduated with an undergraduate degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, before attending USC Law. He practiced personal injury law in Las Vegas for 34 years. He is survived by his daughter, Alexandra.

Alice L. Parker-Griffin '78 died February 2, 2012, at the age of 58. Parker-Griffin attended Colorado State University before getting both a J.D. and an M.P.A. from USC. She had a successful corporate law career, which included work with the Federal Trade Commission and the Central Bank and Trust in Denver. Parker-Griffin is survived by her husband of 25 years, Stanley, and her daughter, Saharra.

Brian Stanley Riepen '78 died on March 17, 2012, at the age of 58. Riepen was raised in St. Joseph, Mo., and graduated with a degree in mathematics from the University of Missouri-Columbia. After graduating from USC Law, he went on to clerk for a federal judge in Lincoln, Neb., and worked for several years at law firms in St. Louis and Dallas. Riepen later opened his own civil litigation practice in Dallas in 1985. He is survived by his wife, Lynn, and his sons, Albrecht, Erich, Dietrich and Blair.

William A. Rutter '55 died Feb. 2, 2012, at the age of 83. Rutter received his B.A. degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara; his M.P.A. from UCLA; and his J.D. degree from USC Law, Order of the Coif. He served as an intelligence officer during the Korean War.

Rutter maintained a general civil law practice for 15 years before beginning a career in legal education, publishing law study aides and practice guides. He founded the Rutter Group, which grew to be a leading provider of continuing legal education publications and programs. Rutter also wrote and published all of the original Gilbert Law Summaries, and founded what became the BAR/BRI Bar Review.

In 2007, Rutter established the William A. Rutter Distinguished Teaching Award to recognize faculty who are excellent classroom teachers. He endowed the prize at four other California law schools, as well.

“It is the most prominent and most meaningful teaching award that exists in the country,” Dean Robert K. Rasmussen said at this year’s Annual Awards ceremony, where Rutter’s son Paul presented the 2012 Rutter Award to Prof. Stephen Rich. “Bill Rutter has educated more law students and lawyers than anyone in his generation. He was the preeminent legal educator of his time.”

Rutter is survived by his wife, Sally; sons, Paul, Barry and Charlie; daughter, Joanna; 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.
Ata Farhadi LL.M. ’12 was working as a paralegal in London when he decided to pick up and fly to China.

“I didn’t know any Chinese — I just packed my bags and I went,” says Farhadi, an Oxford graduate and native of Stoke-on-Trent in the United Kingdom who completed his legal training in London. “I felt I needed some time to explore and live a little.”

Along with a new locale came a new hobby: photography.

“I went to discover myself a little bit, and one of the ways I knew to do that was picking up a hobby, because I’d never really applied myself in that way,” he says.

He picked up some photography books and honed his craft by snapping 20,000 photos as he toured the country. Through his contacts Farhadi found a job doing administrative work and handling contracts for a school in the tiny village of Yinchuan. He stayed nearly two years before moving to Los Angeles, where much of his extended family lives, to enroll in USC Law’s Graduate and International Programs.

“You feel as though you’re being prepared for something, with a way of thinking and a skill set that is significant.”

“I love the fact that we’re taught to think as lawyers,” says Farhadi, who photographed many student events. “You feel as though you’re being prepared for something, with a way of thinking and a skill set that is significant.

“And you’re always made aware of it, and that adds to the momentum of the sense of going places.”

Farhadi is particularly proud of coming to USC Law because of his connection to and admiration for former dean Judge Dorothy Nelson ’56. Like Nelson, Farhadi is of the Bahá’í faith. His family fled Iran, where the state-sponsored persecution of Bahá’ís denies them access to higher education.

“This issue is coming to the fore and has got me thinking of the blessing that education provides and the privilege of it,” Farhadi says. “The passage of knowledge is not something we can take for granted.”

Some of Farhadi’s photos from his China travels, and this spring’s USC Law softball tournament and USC Law/UCLA Law basketball game.
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calendar

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 22 – FRIDAY, AUG. 24
USC Law Orientation
University Park Campus

THURSDAY, SEPT. 6
10th Annual Law and Humanities Distinguished Lecture
John Camaroff, University of Chicago professor
USC Town and Gown

THURSDAY, OCT. 4
U.S. Supreme Court: A Preview
USC Town and Gown

THURSDAY, OCT. 18 AND FRIDAY, OCT. 19
Trojan Family Weekend – details TBD
University Park Campus

SATURDAY, OCT. 27
Institute on Entertainment Law and Business
University Park Campus
(Continuing Legal Education program)

SATURDAY, NOV. 3
USC Law Football Tailgate
USC Trojans v. Oregon Ducks
USC Law Crocker Plaza

FRIDAY, NOV. 9
Trust and Estate Conference
Millennium Biltmore Hotel
(Continuing Legal Education program)

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5
Institute for Corporate Counsel
Private Club, Downtown Los Angeles
(Continuing Legal Education program)

FRIDAY, DEC. 7
Bar Admission Ceremony
USC Town and Gown

ON THE COVER: Special thanks to: top row, Anna Lee ’12, USC Graduate Student Government President Ryan Estes ’12, Alexander Kaplan ’14; middle row, Matthew Labana ’13, Jennifer Park ’13, Justin Goldberg ’13; bottom row, Derek Kigongo ’13, Susannah Rooney ’13, Amadi Jordan–Walker ’13