That’s Entertainment!
Industry’s top attorneys teach USC’s rising stars
Any discussion of the economic and cultural life of Los Angeles would have to focus squarely on the entertainment industry, an engine of creativity and commerce throughout the southland for over a century. And one cannot appreciate the enormous complexity of this business without also understanding the deep impact that lawyers have on the countless transactions that make art and innovation possible.

USC Gould has always enjoyed a close relationship with the entertainment industry. Our alumni work in media companies, Hollywood studios and entertainment law firms. They make decisions and close deals that affect what all of us not only see in the local cineplex and on television but also experience on the radio and online.

To fully prepare our students for the evolving complexities in entertainment law, we are bringing the industry to us. In 2009, we launched our Entertainment and Media Law Program, an interprofessional program (much like the Business Law Program we launched at the same time) that allows students to earn a certificate in Entertainment Law by taking core courses focusing on the business of entertainment. Teaching these courses are some of the most prominent attorneys in the industry — practitioners who share with our students the nuts and bolts of their day-to-day work. Also unique to USC Gould, our students are given the opportunity to take classes at USC’s School of Cinematic Arts and Marshall School of Business and study alongside future professionals in the industry. More than 100 students have earned the Entertainment Law certificate to date.

In this issue of USC Law Magazine you will learn more about this signature program and meet a few of our many alumni serving in key positions throughout the industry.

In this and in all we do as a school, I continue to be grateful for the support and guidance that our alumni and friends provide. The mark of a school is in many ways measured by the success, the achievement and the engagement of those whom it has educated. It is because of you and what you do that we continue to improve and elevate our status as an institution that transforms lives.

Very truly yours,

Robert K. Rasmussen
Dean and Carl Mason Franklin Chair in Law, and Professor of Law and Political Science
ALUMNA REFLECTS ON CAREER OF A LIFETIME

Aulana Peters ’73 did not know it at the time, but her candidacy to serve on the Securities and Exchange Commission was initially discussed in a hot tub at the Bohemian Club in San Francisco.

“A Republican, the then-chairman of the SEC, found himself in a hot tub at the Bohemian Club with a Democrat and asked if he knew any good Democrats who could fill a position on the SEC.

Eventually, the Democrat suggested my name and all of a sudden, I was on a short list of potential candidates,” said Peters, with a laugh.

Peters was the featured guest at a “Conversations with the Dean” event hosted by USC Gould School of Law Dean Robert K. Rasmussen.

Peters detailed her legal career that included a partnership at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in Los Angeles before and after being named a commissioner on the SEC by President Ronald Reagan in 1984.

Peters was the first African-American and third woman to serve as commissioner at the agency.

She said it was an opportunity of a lifetime.

“If you’re thinking about public service — and I was — the SEC was a great place to do it. Being a commissioner was a fantastic job, but a lot of work: half of it involved developing laws and regulations and the other half was enforcing laws already on the books.”

A FREEDOM FIGHTER’S STORY

“Everything suddenly went very dark. I knew that something terrible was happening to me. If I was alive, I wasn’t sure. If I was dead, I wasn’t sure.”

That’s how Justice Albert Louis Sachs opened his Allen Neiman and Alan Sieroty Lecture in Civil Liberties at USC Gould in March: with a recollection of the car bombing that nearly took his life 25 years ago.

Sachs had long been the target of persecution by the South African state. As a human rights activist, he had fought against the apartheid policies of his government since he was a student in law school.

He was twice jailed without trial, each time held in solitary confinement, before leaving the country for London in 1963.

“I said to myself … if we get democracy in South Africa, if we get the rule of law, if we get a society where people care for each other, that will be my vengeance,” he said. “That will be my soft vengeance.”
The corporate system is broken and it’s broken primarily because of international.”
—Prof. Edward Kleinbard, to Bloomberg, on the build-up of offshore profits due to incentives in the U.S. tax code

A TIRELESS PUBLIC SERVANT

On July 1, Councilmember Bernard C. Parks will retire as “the oldest person in city government” following 10 years in office and a previous 38 years in public service with the Los Angeles Police Department. But despite, or perhaps because of, his tenure, Parks’ enthusiasm for public service remains.

Speaking to USC Gould students this spring during a visit hosted by the Government Law Organization, Parks called public service the most honorable thing one can do.

“You have an opportunity to do a lot of good,” said Parks, acknowledging he is both praised and criticized as an “independent-minded” voter on city issues. “You may not get credit for it, but you know from your time and place that you have the opportunity to make things happen. You can change the dynamics of the community; you can change the face of the community by how active and how interested you are.”

LAW AS A LIFE LESSON

A USC Gould alumna, two professors and the dean were each featured in installments of the “Spirit of the Law” speaker series this academic year.

Annette Wong ’12, Profs. Niels Frenzen and Alex Lee and Dean Robert K. Rasmussen shared their personal and professional experiences and discussed how they find meaning, purpose and identity in the law.

For Wong, the speaker series came full circle. As a student she served as president of the Spirit of the Law program, sponsored by the USC Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics and the USC Office of Religious Life.

“I felt that the very issues that brought me to law school had gotten lost,” said Wong, who spent three months working in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia after taking the bar exam. “Spirit of the Law helps students see the human side of the profession and the opportunities that a law degree can create.”

Watch videos from the series on the USC Gould YouTube page: http://www.youtube.com/USCGould

ALUMNI JOIN THE BAR

One hundred six recent USC Gould graduates took their final step toward entering the legal profession when they were sworn into the state and federal bars by two alumni judges.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Richard Lee ’99 and United States Magistrate Judge for the Central District of California Jean Rosenbluth ’55 administered the oaths to the new lawyers at a ceremony at USC attended by family members, friends and professors.

“As members of the bar I challenge you to make a positive difference in your community,” Lee said. “I challenge you to be an inspiration to others and to make outstanding contributions to the legal profession. I am so looking forward to having many of you appear in my court or before my colleagues.”

GUEST SPEAKERS

BY THE NUMBERS

3%
Acceptance rate for Foreign Service officer applicants, according to Officer Ari Nathan ’85

700
Number of men who have been detained at Guantanamo Bay, with many being held indefinitely without charge, said Vince Warren, executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights

12,000
Number of jobs that will be created by The Village at USC development, said Kristina Raspe, vice president of Real Estate Development and Asset Management at USC

$4 billion
Amount California’s death penalty system has cost since 1978, according to guest speakers Ninth Circuit Judge Arthur Alarcon ’51 and Loyola Law School Prof. Paula Mitchell

400,000
Number of people with bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and major depression that Washington Post journalist Pete Earley estimates are in jail or prison
Prof. Lee Epstein has been awarded a fellowship by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and was selected to serve as a Phi Beta Kappa visiting scholar for the 2013-14 academic year.

“I am honored to serve as a Guggenheim fellow and look forward to continuing my work on the role of diversity in the federal courts,” said Epstein, USC Provost Professor of Law and Political Science and holder of the Rader Family Trustee Chair in Law. “I also look forward to participating in the academic life of the schools I’ll visit as Phi Beta Kappa visiting scholar. It has all the makings of an exciting intellectual adventure.”

As a Guggenheim fellow, Epstein will travel to eight institutions to meet with students and faculty, participate in seminars, class discussions and colloquia, and deliver public lectures on a range of topics relating to the Supreme Court, constitutional law, and judicial behavior.

A nationally renowned interdisciplinary scholar, Epstein examines judicial decision-making, the politics of judicial appointments, law and judicial politics, law and social science, and empirical legal research. She has pioneered the application of empirical analysis to judicial decision-making.

“Students offered legal aid and manual labor to East Coast residents impacted by “Superstorm Sandy.” They helped with intake at legal clinics and documented damage. Closer to home, students provided vital legal help to 17 clients in rural California.”

Hale Moot Court Honors Program Finals

Front row, from left: Judge Jacqueline H. Nguyen, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Judge Frank Easterbrook, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Judge Kim M. Wardlaw, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Second row: Runner-up Ian Henry ’14, champion Shaurt Kodaverdian ’14, Dean Robert K. Rasmussen, finalist Kyle Batter ’14 and finalist Aaron Ginsburg ’14

“Prof. Epstein’s outstanding scholarship in the areas of constitutional law, judicial behavior and the empirical analysis of legal institutions; she is the prototypical Provost Professor who combines insights from several disciplines to produce research of consequence,” said Elizabeth Garrett, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at USC.

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“In order to win, [Charles J.] Cooper [a lawyer representing Protectmarriage.com] has to convince the court that there is a legitimate justification for Prop. 8 that doesn’t depend on hostility toward gay people.”

—Prof. David Cruz, discussing with ABC News the Supreme Court hearing on the Prop. 8 case
With so many of its alumni ensconced at entertainment law firms, Hollywood studios and media companies, the USC Gould School of Law has long helped shape the legal life of Los Angeles’ predominant industry. But in recent years, the law school has increasingly embraced the reverse dynamic, recruiting top entertainment attorneys and cultivating industry connections to help sculpt the school’s Entertainment and Media Law program.

Thanks to a slate of new, entertainment-specific courses and innumerable internship opportunities around town, USC Gould students can arm themselves with working knowledge of the industry — and discover whether they’re ready for the grind behind the glam.

“As in other areas of law for which we prepare our students, entertainment firms and companies are looking for law school grads who understand not only the legal issues but also the business fundamentals,” Dean Robert K. Rasmussen says. “By focusing on both the major business models and industry-specific skills — like negotiating contracts and understanding entertainment financing — we enable our students to begin contributing to their firms and companies from day one.”

A DISTINCTIVE PROGRAM

While a substantive legal education grounded in the study of cases, statutes and regulations forms the backbone of any successful legal practice, USC Gould’s Entertainment and Media Law program also focuses on knowledge and skills that fall outside the typical law school curriculum.

“Entertainment lawyers are more often negotiators than litigators,” says Prof. Jonathan Barnett, the program’s academic director and a former corporate lawyer prior to entering academia. “Students come in and take foundational classes, as they would at other law schools. Then they get these skills-based courses with a business component that we think are unique compared to our peers.”

Although the law school has always drawn adjunct faculty from the entertainment world, in 2009 USC Gould brought the industry in-house when it hired former long-time Warner Bros. Executive Vice President and General Counsel John Schulman to serve as the entertainment law program’s inaugural director. Schulman emphasizes negotiation skills and offers intensive weekend seminars that feature lawyers and deal-makers from studios, production companies and entertainment law firms.

“I’ve liked [USC Gould’s] opportunity, liked their openness,” he says. “Experience, and exposure to negotiation … especially for a lawyer in the entertainment industry, is essential.”

Around the same time, USC Gould also began offering an Entertainment Law Certificate to students who completed core courses focusing on the law and business of entertainment. More than 100 students have earned the certificate since 2011.

USC Gould now offers more than a dozen entertainment law-related courses. In addition to core courses on intellectual property law, students can select from a rich menu of specialized courses focused on transactional issues and internet-specific legal topics. These include: Dealmaking in the Entertainment Industry; Digital Media Transactions; Entertainment Deals in the Motion Picture Industry; Legal Issues in the Music Industry; Legal Issues in the Motion Picture Industry; Legal Issues in Television; Internet Law; and Media Law in the Digital Age.

To teach these courses, USC Gould has recruited some of the most accomplished entertainment lawyers in Los Angeles.

“We take advantage of our location in L.A. by drawing on practitioners that have immense experience, are prominent in the field, and are dedicated to transmitting the prac-
You have to be in on the development of the law.

"I don't think it's possible to teach entertainment law if you're not a practitioner, or have not recently been [one]. You have to be in on the development of the law."

— Stanton "Larry" Stein '69

TRADING BILLABLE HOURS FOR OFFICE HOURS

When the industry’s most prominent lawyers enter the classroom, they leave their billable hours behind. At USC Gould, transactional attorneys and litigators who command fees of hundreds of dollars an hour work for a wage that amounts to volunteerism. What motivates them is not money, but their love of teaching and a desire to share what they know with enthusiastic future lawyers.

Tara Kole, a partner at Gang, Tyre, Ramer & Brown, says she enjoys teaching the practical negotiation and transactional skills she had no exposure to in law school.

"We look at contracts … the kind I work on every day," she says. "We talk about what you need to be paying attention to, looking for, thinking about. Then we have a negotiating component, where we break up and have students in different formations negotiate a new hypothetical version of the deal we just talked about."

Kole says that the transactional work she does is "pretty specific" to the entertainment industry.

"This is not a field where there are a lot of books," she says. "My goal is to show students that, if you want to be an entertainment lawyer, you have to work at a studio or a talent boutique … this is what it’s going to be like, this is what you’re going to do."

Like Kole, Lecturer Mark Litwak, an entertainment lawyer and former film producer, learned the specifics of the entertainment business not from law school but from experience. It is that experience that he tries to convey to his students.

"A lot of my experience in the movie business came from being a producer and writing books about the movie business," says Litwak, author of such influential books as Real Producer and Deal-making in the Film & Television Industry. "I didn’t take any courses in my law school … about entertainment law at all. I give out a whole bunch of contracts and go over [them], so if the students practice in entertainment law and one comes across their desk, they’re going to know what it is and understand the terms," he says.

Another lecturer, USC Gould alumnus Stanton “Larry” Stein ’69, is one of the industry’s most accomplished litigators. He says technology is driving change in the industry "on a daily basis," with significant ramifications for his work.

"The problem is you create contracts based on circumstances that existed when the contract is entered into. That contract often doesn’t deal with issues that arise as a result of technology … which turns those contracts on their heads," he says. "The legislature doesn’t move that fast, so courts ultimately decide those issues. These changes are developing whole new areas of law, which is why I love participating in it."

Stein says these changes are reflected in his teaching.

"I don’t think it’s possible to teach entertainment law if you’re not a practitioner, or have not recently been [one],” he says. “You have to be in on the development of the law.”
At least half of our docket could be considered entertainment law. Here we are, in a place where this is what people are doing day in and day out. It’s a very important facet of this community.”

— Prof. Jack Lerner

Josh Wattles, former acting general counsel for Paramount Pictures and current advisor in chief at the 26 million member social network DeviantArt, shares his deep knowledge of copyright law with his students. A former professional photographer with strong ties to the art world, Wattles says that an attorney must not only understand the business but also have an affinity for it.

“If you’re going to be effective as a lawyer in the music industry, you better learn how business works. But you also better know music, and you better love it,” he says. “It will inform your ability to provide advice to your client. More importantly, it will make you more comfortable being embedded with the client, and will make the client more comfortable with you.”

TAKING THE SHOW ON THE ROAD

After learning from such teachers, USC Gould students have opportunities to test drive their newfound skill set by working in the industry before graduation. A list of recent employers for second-year students covers every major company in the industry. Among them are Warner Bros., Funny or Die, Universal Studios, MGM, HBO, NBC, CBS, Disney ABC Television Group, A&M Records, Activision, Summit Entertainment, William Morris Endeavor, Marvel Comics, Rhino Records, RKO Pictures, SONY Music and Lionsgate.

In addition to learning how to practice law, students are encouraged to hone another set of equally important skills: networking and relationship-building.

During her 2L year, Jenn Westhoff ’13 served as president of the law school’s Entertainment Law Society (ELS), which had been revitalized over the previous two years by student leaders hell-bent on working in the business.

Like her predecessors, Westhoff invited industry luminaries to talk at ELS events, and she reached out to graduate students in the USC School of Cinematic Arts, the nation’s top film school. Students from both schools have traveled together to the Sundance Film Festival three years running.

For Westhoff, such events are opportunities not just to meet future employers but also future clients and colleagues.

“What ELS does is build on the Trojan network, which is an entity unto itself,” says Westhoff, who is working in Reed Smith’s entertainment practice. “You really see how effective it is when we get people like Bob Myman [see story page 32] coming to our mentor event, and taking three students and sitting down and talking to them for three hours and then hiring one of them!”

Westhoff credits internship opportunities with helping her build a network of contacts.

“Compared to the number of people who practice in civil litigation or employment, entertainment is really a small community,” she says. “Those jobs are scarce ... they don’t get published on the internet. A lot of it is: does someone who has power over that job opening remember who you are and think you’re good for it? That’s what a lot of these internships you do during the school year help you build.”

Alumnus Howard Fishman ’92, who established ELS, has a deep knowledge of copyright law with his students, these creators are now free to obtain materials from otherwise encrypted or “locked” DVD and online media for commentary in their works.

“What we do at the clinic is explore and help our clients deal with challenges at the intersection of law and technology,” Lerner says.

He adds that USC Gould’s location in the spotlight of L.A.’s entertainment industry has a strong bearing on the clinic’s casework.

“At least half of our docket could be considered entertainment law,” he says. “If we were in Detroit … then maybe we’d be working on labor law,” he says. “But here we are, in a place where this is what people are doing day in and day out. It’s a very important facet of this community.”

Thanks to such professors, and a curriculum infused with skills-specific courses focused on the business of entertainment, it is a community that will continue to benefit from the participation of very prepared USC Gould graduates.
Included in the six-week class last fall were private meetings with four high-ranking executives behind sports sponsorships in Los Angeles. Class enrollment was capped at 14 students; it was a sell-out.

“It’s valuable for the students to get insight into an industry where not everything is always public,” says Vered Yakovee ’02, an adjunct law professor with an extensive client list of sports organizations. “And, they’re hearing from people who probably are speaking more freely than they would in public.”

Case in point: The students met John Keenan, senior vice president and general counsel for AEG, the world’s largest privately-held sports and entertainment company. Sitting in AEG’s conference room for a two-hour discussion, Keenan was pressed as to whether or not AEG would ever sell one of its sports franchises, including the 2012 Stanley Cup champion Los Angeles Kings. Rather than demur, Keenan’s cool response was that “anything is for sale for a price.”

‘Forget “Bend it Like Beckham.” Instead, endorse it like Beckham.”

Nine years ago, British soccer star David Beckham signed a $160 million contract to wear Adidas clothing and shoes for the rest of his life. In addition, Beckham, now 38, is paid to promote Adidas and receives a percentage of their profits.

‘To law and business school students, the takeaway is not that they should have focused on a professional soccer career, but rather how they as legal practitioners might put together savvy partnerships for future clients.’

Now, a new course — The Business and Legal Components of the Sports Sponsorship Deal — taught jointly by the USC’s Gould School of Law and Marshall School of Business professors, allows students in both schools to learn what their counterparts need to create successful and profitable relationships. While the skill sets each profession brings are different, a lawyer needs to understand the business considerations of an agreement and a businessperson needs to understand and be able to work with the legal considerations within a contract.

“If you don’t actively hear from the other disciplines, you’re going to be compromised in business,” says David Carter, an associate professor at USC Marshall, and a national authority on sports business and strategic marketing. “You have to know what (the other side is) thinking, what their overall business decision-making process is and the legal challenges throughout.”

Field Notes

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Business and law students learn how the pros do it

By Maria Iacobo
Five days later, the Anschutz Corporation announced that AEG and its holdings were up for sale. “This is the only class I’ve had that’s given us that one-on-one experience where we can ask them anything in such a small intimate setting,” says Sasha Gilger ’13, who took the class as she explores whether or not to pursue a legal career in entertainment. “It’s really interesting to hear the perspective of the people who are working and dealing with these issues on a daily basis.”

THE BUSINESS OF SPORTS LAW

Prof. Carter and Yakovee designed the course to provide these personal experiences so their students would develop an appreciation for each other’s roles.

“After teaching the students the process through the eyes of one deal, they can take a lot of those skills and transfer them to any deal they’re working on,” Yakovee says. “With most deals you want to make the other party happy as well because you’re starting a relationship at the outset of that contract. You don’t have to be hard on every single point in order to best serve your own client.”

Access to the guest speakers was one of the class’s highlights mentioned repeatedly by students.

Samuel Katz ’14, a transfer law student, reflected on his visit to the Los Angeles Lakers training facility and meeting with Jim Perzik ’62, Lakers general counsel. “[Perzik] came to [my previous school] and spoke to about 300 of us and I had to wait in a line of 50 people just to look at his ring. [In this class] I was able to ask him about 30 questions when we met with him.”

“Jim is just a fountain of wisdom,” Yakovee says. “He broke down about 20 contract terms and told them what he would do with each. These students are in a room with a man who has been Dr. Buss’s attorney for 44 years, learning how he views negotiating various contract terms.”

Before releasing the students into the stadium to watch the Angels take on the Texas Rangers in a tight division race game, Cohen suggested the students look around the ballpark to identify the myriad of sponsorship opportunities his organization takes advantage of. Businesses need to grow, and that means finding new ways, new things and new places to sell, he said.

“The class was really unique, and having faculty members and students from both schools made it a much better experience,” says Eric Perlmutter-Gumbiner ’13, who is earning a joint J.D./MBA degree. “It was really cool to hear both sides and have them work off of each other.”

Their hosts matched students’ enthusiasm about the experience.

“The folks I know in the sports industry welcome the chance to talk to students,” Carter says. “I think they were particularly engaged and interested this time around because it was a very unique opportunity. It wasn’t just coming to USC and talking to my MBA students. It was what happens at the cross section of business and law. I think that for each of them, that was the first time they’d had that discussion and they welcomed it.”

Hearing the perspectives of some of the top dealmakers in the sports industry provided the tools for the students to develop and participate in their own mock negotiations, which stood in for their final exam.

This was Casey Schwab’s first class with MBA students. To effectively develop his mock negotiations, Schwab ’13 said, it was valuable to have heard the business side of a sponsorship deal.

“The actual numbers and financial breakdown was interesting because in law school, all we discuss are the legal aspects and what’s binding and not binding,” Schwab said. “It was interesting to hear that, for example, even if something is binding there may not be enough financial incentive to include something in a contract.”

Cohen told the students that lawyers are in place to support the business needs and it is the business or sales departments that decide how to expand the business, he said.

“Law is a profession, but when it comes down to the nitty-gritty, I’m a service provider,” Cohen said.

For Carter, who has been teaching business for 18 years, watching his students interact with each other and the speakers provided him with an awareness of how valuable the class had been.

“It was interesting to me that that lack of appreciation went both ways,” Carter says. “The business students didn’t fully comprehend the intricacies of what the legal community goes through, and certainly the law students didn’t understand fully how the business people enter into the negotiations. To hear each side talk about how that creates frustrations and opportunities was a learning experience for me.”
Practicum Matters

Prof. Clare Pastore and students serve local non-profits

By Lori Craig

Like many students, Stephanie Krol ’14 wanted to attend law school to become a public interest attorney, protecting the rights of those whose access to the justice system is limited or obstructed by roadblocks. Thanks to a semester in Prof. Clare Pastore’s Access to Justice Practicum, she effectively has half a year’s real-world experience under her belt. In the course, students work closely with Pastore on projects for public interest agencies and their real-world clients. “The practicum really prepares us for a legal career because Prof. Pastore is still a practicing attorney, so she helps us hone our research and writing skills,” says Krol, who is a 2013 Bergstrom Professor. Pastore is still a practicing attorney, so she helps us hone our research and writing skills,” says Krol, who is a 2013 Bergstrom Professor.

The particular instances we’ve encountered are [employers] not letting their employees know that there are fees for withdrawal of funds from paycards and fees for viewing your balance or seeing a paystub,” Krol says. “There have been problems with employees not being able to withdraw the full paycheck amount, or even knowing how much they’re getting paid. It seems that the paycheck system has been very poorly implemented, to the detriment of employees.”

Meanwhile, classmates Zach Hoffman ’14 and Blanca Hernandez ’13 worked with the Inner City Law Center to try to find a better way to identify veterans who are receiving general relief benefits from the county, state and federal government every day, trying to figure out how everything worked,” Hoffman says.

“Our project involved a lot of research, calling and emailing people up at the county, state and federal government every day, trying to figure out how everything worked,” Hoffman says. “Because it really matters to somebody.”

This was truly a partnership from beginning to end,” says Laura Streimer, legal director of the Alliance for Children’s Rights. “The students did a lot of detailed work that my office couldn’t have taken on, including looking at massive amounts of discovery, and providing assistance around drafting and research.”

At the same time, practicum students get exposure to new legal topics. “This was truly a partnership from beginning to end,” says Laura Streimer, legal director of the Alliance for Children’s Rights. “The students did a lot of detailed work that my office couldn’t have taken on, including looking at massive amounts of discovery, and providing assistance around drafting and research.”

Stephanie Krol ’14 and Julie Carter ’14 meet with Prof. Clare Pastore.

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The course is open to just four students each spring who work in pairs on separate projects under Pastore’s tutelage. Pastore has long been a leader in the Los Angeles public interest community, having spent 15 years with the Western Center on Law and Poverty and several with the American Civil Liberties Union. Honored four times as a Southern California “Super Lawyer,” Pastore established the practicum at USC Gould in 2008, treating students more like colleagues than pupils.

“It’s very much a professional setting,” says Pastore, who asks the students to call her “Clare.” “[I’m working with the students as if they are junior lawyers in an organization where I work, rather than as if they are students and I’m the professor.”

“They get the chance not only to do legal research and writing and analysis, but also they’re working on the skills of how to be a professional, not a student, and I had to understand external to the firm, was a key takeaway from my work at the firm. The same thing was true for the external client,” she says. “I also learned the consequences of my work — these were real clients.”

Another case with the Alliance for Children’s Rights finally concluded this spring after four years of litigation. That case, Harris v. Department of Social Services, established that relatives seeking to be foster parents are entitled to a state administrative hearing if their applications are denied. The fee award includes $85,000 for the practicum’s work and a $15,000 donation to PILF of fees from co-counsel O’Melveny & Myers.
TV executive Jeffrey Schneider ’91 introduces students to the industry

By Lori Craig

Jeffrey Schneider ’91 has plenty to keep him busy and intellectually challenged. He’s approaching his third year as executive vice president of business affairs at NBCUniversal, managing part of an entertainment division that contains networks Bravo, Oxygen, Style, Telemundo and Sprout, the digital businesses Fandango and DailyCandy, and which was recently merged into the division that includes USA, Syfy and E! Entertainment Television.

But each spring he makes the time to teach “Legal Topics in Television” as a USC Gould lecturer. Teaching, he says, is “so much more fun, so much more rewarding” than his day job, especially when “it clicks.”

“The best part is when you’re talking about a particular concept and you know that the class — or at least a substantial part of the class — just got it. And the way you know they got it is they start anticipating what you’re going to say next,” Schneider says. “That’s the best feeling in the world. You’re seeing learning happen right in front of you.”

Schneider’s popular course examines what daily life is like for entertainment lawyers working in the TV industry, the topics they work on, the legal material they must know inside and out, and how they structure deals and contracts. One week each semester, students participate in mock deal-making sessions in which Schneider involves real industry players like actors, writers and TV executives.

Students also learn about what production attorneys do because, Schneider says, there is a misconception that entertainment lawyers only craft deals. Before their careers reach the deal-making phase, most entertainment lawyers will be “nuts-and-bolts” practitioners.

“One of my students was an associate in a small law firm that’s got a real estate practice, and he said, ‘I try to emphasize [production] issues as well because that’s probably going to be the first job students get if they get an entertainment-related legal position,’” says Schneider, who has seen a number of former students secure jobs at major entertainment law firms or media companies.

“They’re going to get the job where they review the location agreement, or they negotiate a film clip license, or they rent a giant crane.

“We’re manufacturing a product, and that product may be manufactured in multiple locations, in multiple jurisdictions, with a number of types of legal issues that come up on a given day, because we’re on this relentless schedule to get things done … you’re under intense time pressure.”

In addition to the practical, Schneider also focuses on the theoretical, teaching students to issue-spot, problem-solve and, above all, think creatively.

By Lori Craig

It is fitting that Jonathan Barnett, prior to law school, was on his way to earning a Ph.D. in comparative literature.

In his legal research and teaching today, he crosses traditional boundaries of study, combining genres of law and drawing on both academic theory and his experience as a practicing lawyer. Having obtained a master’s degree in comparative literature from Cambridge University, Barnett decided that a law degree would be a stimulating blend of the academic and the practical.

“Legal academia was a way to have the best of both worlds,” says Barnett, who developed an interest in IP and antitrust issues while at Yale Law School. “It has the academic bent, obviously, but it’s a subject that has an immediate practical application to real-world issues.”

Following law school, Barnett wanted to get a couple years of that practical experience under his belt before returning to academia, and he joined Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York to practice corporate law. He ended up taking such a strong interest in his mergers and acquisitions and private equity practice that he stayed for six years.

All the while he continued to explore academic topics, publishing articles on IP topics and taking a year off to teach contracts and antitrust at Fordham University School of Law.

“My academic interest in IP and my work experience as a corporate lawyer is a fairly unusual combination,” Barnett says. “When I returned to academia at USC, I tried to integrate the two together, both in my research and in what we’ve been trying to do with the Entertainment and Media Law Program.”

Named academic director of the program in 2011, Barnett sought to shape it in a way that allows students to look at IP from a business law angle in addition to the traditional focus on doctrine and litigation.

“We have a program that is focused on what I would call practical lawyering issues,” Barnett says. “Practical means two things: One is the sense in which I think all schools look at it — lawyer-legal skills. But in the entertainment and media concept, it also means specifically giving students the skills to not only be a negotiator … but to be a negotiator, to be someone who puts deals together.”

This grounding is especially important in media and entertainment, where entertainment lawyers often focus on deal-making rather than dispute resolution, while a great many have business affairs positions at studios and networks.

“When I returned to academia at USC, I thought about practical client problems both from a legal point of view and from a business point of view, which is what good lawyers do in practice,” Barnett says. “In my experience, that hasn’t been taught in law school, but it is a good skill set to have.”

Barnett speaks partly from his own experience as a practitioner.

“Much of what I learned in law school did not track what I needed in practice as a corporate lawyer,” he says. “Back in law...
Dan Simon recounts journey to Crutcher Professorship

By Darren Schenck

Surrounded by family, friends, faculty and peers, Dan Simon formally accepted the Richard L. and Surrounded by family, friends, faculty and peers, Dan Simon formally accepted the Richard L. and Maria B. Crutcher Professorship in Law and Psychology in February.

A widely published scholar in the area of law and psychology, Simon described the unlikely journey to his current academic post. Simon said he had not set out to become an academic or an experimental psychologist. A native of Israel, he had never even considered living in the U.S.

"Which brings me to the key ingredient of this journey: good fortune, serendipity — or, to be a bit more direct — sheer luck," Simon said. "Another key ingredient was the benevolence and wisdom of the people who lent a helping hand along the route."

In 1990, Simon was working as a human rights lawyer in the West Bank when he was offered a visiting fellowship at Harvard Law School. Once there, he began to consider a career as a law professor and joined the S.J.D. program.

For his dissertation, Simon studied appellate cases, admiring the ability of judges to arrive at powerfully reasoned decisions. But he also found it remarkable that the dissenting judges’ opinions were just as insightful, compelling and well-reasoned.

"How could this be?" Simon recalled asking. "How could judicial reasoning be at once so iron-clad and so open-ended?"

Such questions drove Simon to abandon his initial thesis and enter the unfamiliar world of experimental psychology. Working first with renowned cognitive psychologist Keith Holyoak of UCLA and later with USC Dornsife psychology professor Stephen Read, Simon designed cognitive experiments that yielded results incompatible with prevailing theories of cognition.

Dean Robert K. Rasmussen told the audience he believed the book will be considered an important landmark in the criminal justice field for decades to come. "Dan is not simply a critic of the system. He does offer us hope," Rasmussen said. "He makes real, concrete, specific proposals in a way that we can enhance our criminal justice system to make the promise of our government being fair to all citizens more real."

USC Provost Elizabeth Garrett, a member of the law school faculty, emphasized the importance of such interdisciplinary work. "This book is a very substantial social case for active government measures to address and offered thought-provoking ideas to address tax code deficiencies. He observed that academics should explore the merits or demerits of taxing activities that society has actively discouraged over the years, such as the production of carbon dioxide emissions and the consumption of products like tobacco, sugar and alcohol."

"There seems to me to be a variety of activities on which there is a very substantial social case for active government measures to bring about reductions and that the use of price instruments would have the virtue of generating revenue," Summers said. Summers also identified four forces that he expects will weigh heavily on any political party and that will lead to a dire need for increased revenue. First, we as a society are getting older. More retirees means that, as a share of all income earned, the cost of government programs is substantially greater, Summers said.

The second force is the growing size of our debt, and along with it, our interest burden. The third force is the structure of our economy — "relative prices are changing in ways that pressure the size of government."

"Although all three forces are growing, there is a fourth force that is growing more rapidly," Summers said. "The final force is that the unequal distribution of wealth in the U.S. will increase. "Government is involved in activities related to the redistribution and the provision of social insurance, and we are becoming more unequal as a society. The top 1 percent of our population now earns about 25 percent of all the income; it used to earn about 10 percent of all the income."

USC Gould is home to some of the nation’s most highly regarded tax law faculty. Joining Staats are Elizabeth Garrett, USC Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Francis R. and John J. Duggan Professor of Law, Political Science and Public Policy; Thomas D. Griffith, John B. Milliken Professor of Taxation; Edward D. Kleinbard, former chief of staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation; and Edward McCaffrey, Robert C. Packard Trustee Chair in Law and a fellow of the American College of Tax Counsel.
Small-Screen Dealmaker

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“I don’t want them to just learn what’s in a contract … those are the sorts of things I can teach somebody once they come on my staff,” he says. “I’m going to give students strategies for approaching problem-solving so that you’re not just somebody who does these deals in the corner and when the paradigm shifts, you’re out of a job.”

The challenge of problem-solving was what initially attracted Schneider to the production side of television as a young transactional attorney on the staff of Paramount Pictures Corp. He was fresh off a federal clerkship and two years of litigating intellectual property cases. The grind and acrimony of litigation took their toll and left Schneider wondering why both sides couldn’t work together to find solutions.

He was hired at Paramount after sending an unsolicited resume to the head of the legal department, and he quickly fell in love with the practice closer together. So we’ve put together courses that teach problem-solving so that you’re not just somebody who does a litigator’s job.”

At Paramount, Schneider worked on shows like “Frasier,” the “Star Trek” franchise, and “JAG” before being promoted into business affairs. Since then he has held executive roles at MTV Networks, Fox Television Studios and A&E Television Networks.

He has some of his career success to two “lucky experiences” he had as a student at USC Gould. The first was that he registered for classes solely based on intellectual whim, taking courses like Securities Regulation and Real Estate Transactions.

“I think that was the best thing I could have done, because I took classes I would never ever need as an entertainment attorney,” he says.

The second happenstance was enrolling in Prof. Matt Sperlin’s Regulation of Broadcasting course, which convinced Schneider he wanted to pursue entertainment law and the TV industry in particular.

“At that class, I realized that TV is much more intellectually interesting than the other media,” Schneider says. “It’s more multi-faceted: types of deals, types of things that can go wrong, types of transactions, number of parties per deal, things like that. I could tell that if you were the type of person who always needed a new puzzle, something to change, and you were coming out of law school and going into the entertainment industry, you needed to go into television.”

Entertaining Inquiry

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school as a professor, I’ve tried to bring the classroom and prac- tice closer together. So we’ve put together courses that teach students to understand the way a contract is designed or how to structure a business enterprise in entertainment transactions.”

In his own classroom, Barnett teaches contracts, antitrust, and introductory and advanced courses in IP. After seven years at USC Gould, he still relishes the life of a legal academic.

“My favorite thing about teaching is the opportunity to guide students at the start of their careers and introduce them to the rich possibilities available in the legal community,” Barnett says. “I also really enjoy the opportunity to write about subjects that I feel strongly about, and as a researcher to examine overlooked phenomena that we as academics have the privilege and the time to study closely.”

His current project brings economic analysis to bear on Hollywood dealmaking. He has studied the practice of un- signed deals in the film industry, documenting the practice and explaining why it happens, based on interviews with entertain- ment attorneys and studio executives and examining court deci- sions and periodical archives dating back 100 years.

“It’s a way of doing business in an environment where there’s very high risk of failure,” Barnett says. “It’s hard to predict the future and you’re dealing with parties that interact with each other on a repeated basis, so they’re subject to reputational norms that allow them to operate without having a fully signed-up contract.”

A LITIGATOR’S LEGACY

Mason C. Brown Award Winners Assemble at USC

By Darren Schenck

Every April, hundreds of USC Gould students gather to celebrate their classmates at the annual student-run awards ceremony. And every year, Laurie Brown makes a point of driving out to the USC campus to attend.

She wanted to be there to congratulate the student who wins the Mason C. Brown Award, a prize she created in honor of her late husband, a renowned litigator who devoted much of his time to public service. The award recognizes the third-year student who demonstrates the most impressive combination of first-rate trial advocacy skills and a commitment to social justice.

“Each year, the student who wins is remarkably qualified,” Brown says. “The students who win are exactly what I hoped for.”

Brown endowed the award in 1996 using the tuition revenue collected from trial skills workshops she organized with Mason’s friend Jim Herrmann, a former president of the California Bar.

Since then, there have been 18 Mason C. Brown Award winners, and lately Brown had gotten to wondering what each of them was up to. Where were they working? What kind of public service, if any, were they doing?

So last November, she worked with USC Gould’s Office of Public Service to arrange the first-ever gathering of Mason C. Brown Award alumni. The event allowed a half-dozen award win- ners along with current members of the Hale Moot Court board to meet, catch up and trade stories.

It also gave Brown, an education consultant with deep experi- ence in community outreach, the opportunity to plant the seed for a future public service project in which the alumni could play a leadership role.

“The response was enthusiastic,” she says. “People were so glad to be in touch with each other.”

Dean Robert K. Rasmussen says he was delighted that previous award winners came together for the event.

“Thanks to Laurie’s vision and generosity, we can recognize students for their commitment to excellence in public service and litigation for years to come,” he says. “What a wonderful way to honor Mason Brown’s legacy.”
Honor roll

Marc Berman ’08 was elected to the Palo Alto City Council. Berman is counsel at Merino Yebi, LLP.

Joe Bogdan ’84 has been appointed assistant professor and coordinator of the Live and Performing Arts Management Concentration at Columbia College Chicago. Bogdan also formally launched Silvershift, a legal and consulting firm.

Robert R. Bowalsky III ’53 was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to fill the seat of retired Judge Maral Injejikian in the Los Angeles Superior Court. Prior to his appointment he was counsel at Leader Counsel.

Stephen A. Del Guercio ’86, a partner with Demetriou, Del Guercio, Spring & Francis, LLP, currently serving his stint as mayor of La Canada Flintridge, was appointed a director of CBV Financial Corp. and a director of Citizens Business Bank.

Jackie Lacey ’82 was elected Los Angeles County Probate Attorney. She is the county’s first female and first African-American district attorney. Lacey, who joined the D.A.’s office in 1986, previously served as former D.A. Steve Cooley’s ‘73 chief deputy.

Alicia Macklin ’99 wrote a law review note that was featured recently in a California Supreme Court case overruling an 84-year-old precedent. She is a litigation associate at Arnold & Porter LLP in Los Angeles.

Sheryl Gordon McCloud ’84 was elected Los Angeles County Superior Court Counsel. Prior to his appointment he was of counsel at Leader Counsel.

Kelly Richardson ’83, managing partner of Richard- ardon Harman Oiber PC in Pasadena, Calif., was appointed to the Community Associations Institute’s (CAI) Board of Trustees for his second consecutive two-year term.

Jacqueline Shapira ’79 has published a book, “L.A. Babies.” She is the president and founder of The Baby Shower Foundation.

Joshua Judy Sawantamangalchoudh ’99 founded the Thai American Bar Association in November 2012. She is an associate with Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLC and also serves as the executive vice president of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles.

Sorrell Trope ’49 received the California State Bar’s Lifetime Achievement Award from the Family Law Executive Committee. He also was inducted by the Half Century Trojans into the USC Alumni Association Hall of Fame. A pioneer in the field of family law, Trope founded his firm, Trope and Trope, in 1949.

Cultivating a silver screen dream

Culminating a journey begun in 1996 with the first draft of a screenplay, attorney Zev Brooks ’92 can now add co-writer and executive producer to his resume.

“The Yankles,” an independent feature film about an orthodox Jewish baseball team Brooks made with his brother, David, has won nine film festival awards and played in 10 countries, including England and Croatia, and in Hong Kong, China. It was released last summer by Magnolia Pictures across the United States, Canada and the Caribbean basin.

Brooks, an estate planning, probate and trust attorney, likens the lengthy independent filmmaking process to climbing a mountain only to be deceived by false summits.

“We made ‘The Yankles’ as a totally independent film, but my brother and I are hoping its success can get us the representation we need in Hollywood to bring our other film ideas to life,” he says.

After years spent breaking the script and raising funds, the brothers finally began shooting scenes in 2007. By 2009 they had a completed movie and started on the film festival circuit. Brooks says being a lawyer gave him the skills — and being a sole practitioner gave him the flexibility — to pursue the project for years.

“My legal background without a doubt helped me in this endeavor, even looking back to the entertainment law class I had” says Brooks, who offers a nod to USC Gould by mentioning a couple of his 1992 classmates in the film. “We couldn’t afford to go out and start hiring all kinds of legal help, so I drafted many of the agreements we needed and made sure we had the right paperwork in place, so when Magnolia picked us up for distribution, our due diligence was in order.”

To watch the trailer and read more about Brooks and “The Yankles,” visit lawmag.usc.edu.
When you were a kid, chances are your parents told you what shows you could watch on television.

In the Matzkin household, TV-watching comes with a twist. As principal counsel for media distribution at The Walt Disney Company, Erin Matzkin ’02 tells her children how they can watch television programming. (For starters, they don’t really need the television.)

And as vice president of business affairs for Warner Horizon Television, Matt Matzkin ’00 can tell them about the shows their father is making—and what may be on television a year from now.

“Television, Matt Matzkin ’00 can tell them about the shows their father is making—and what may be on television a year from now.”

Growing up in Westlake Village, Calif., Matt dreamed of working in the entertainment industry. So when he arrived at USC Gould, he charted a path to get there. “I love the entertainment industry,” he says. “I knew that was the area of law I wanted to go into. My favorite classes in law school were First Amendment, copyright, contracts, a labor relations class, telecommunication regulation. I felt entirely prepared.”

Beyond the curriculum, Matt made friends of many classmates, laying a foundation on which he has built a career and a life.

“My entire career has been aided by the Trojan Family,” he says. “I got my first in-house job from a USC law grad, and she gave me the tip that got me into my second job. I had a very close-knit class. We had very good rapport.”

As the holder of an undergraduate degree from USC, Erin has Trojan roots that extend even deeper. But when the firm she was going to work for after graduation “went down in flames,” she turned to Prof. Susan Estrich, who introduced her to the managing partner of Aischuler Grossman, where one of the interviewing attorneys was also a USC Gould alumnus. Erin says that USC has continued to play a “giant part” in her career.

“There are several very senior lawyers at The Walt Disney Company who are USC law grads… I also recruited two of my closest friends from law school to come work with me at Disney Interactive. The Trojan Family is real.”

Beyond its impact on their careers, the Trojan Family played a key role in bringing Erin and Matt together. Read how at USC Law Magazine Online, where you will find photographic evidence of Prof. Scott Bice as wedding officiator.

Find an expanded version of this story at USC Law Magazine Online http://lawmag.usc.edu.

Family Entertainment

In work and life, the Matzkins are on the same channel.

SEC veteran Michele Wein Layne ’84 heads L.A. office

Michele Wein Layne ’84 didn’t need to look any farther than her front door to find role models for her career and how to strike a positive balance between work and parenting. Her father was managing partner for a prestigious downtown Los Angeles law firm; her mother returned to college, graduated from the USC School of Social Work and began her career once Michele and her brother were in college.

Today, the mother of two pre-teen boys is one of only three women heading one of the 11 regional U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission offices. It’s a job Layne pursued when the position opened up last spring.

“This work resonates profoundly with me,” Layne says. “I feel like I’m on the right side. Unlike a pure litigation practice, you’re charged with doing the right thing. You have prosecutorial discretion in ultimately when and what charges should be brought against an individual or entity that has violated the securities laws. It’s not the adversarial stance of litigation.”

Layne began her career by following in her father’s footsteps; fresh out of USC Gould, she became an associate at Buchalter & Nemer as a general business litigator. While enjoying the intellectual challenge and the law-and-motion on the substantive issues, Layne says she grew disenchanted.

“Ultimately, I didn’t think [business litigation] was how I wanted to spend my career, because I didn’t feel the work I was doing was that meaningful,” she says. “It really is just about civil discovery battles. I didn’t feel as if it was advancing the ball … and it wasn’t very satisfying.”

Layne found her passion when she jumped to public service and joined the enforcement division of the SEC. Among the high-profile cases she directed was the conviction of former Countrywide Financial CEO Angelo Mozilo for insider trading and securities fraud. Mozilo paid $22.5 million in fines — the largest penalty by a senior CEO of a public company in an SEC settlement.

Her most frustrating cases are those involving overseas issuers because of the difficulty getting the evidence. Also challenging is developing evidence against the senior officers who, “common sense would dictate, had to have been involved or known about” the misconduct of their company yet manage to slip through, unattached to the evidence.

“I wasn’t a bitter sweet moment when I was selected as the director and he wasn’t here because I know how happy that would have made him. He was proud and happy that I pursued a career in public interest, because I think a part of him wished he had [pursued this path as well].”

Though working a demanding schedule — her office is the SEC’s third largest — Layne is grateful that she can make it home for her sons’ school and sports activities. Her only regret is that her dad passed away a few years ago.
Jeanne Newman ’80 knew she wanted to be an entertainment lawyer when she enrolled at USC Gould. In fact, entertainment law was the reason she applied to law schools — USC in particular — in the first place.

But at the time she had no idea what being an entertainment lawyer meant.

“If you had asked me then what I thought an entertainment lawyer was, it would have sounded so ridiculous, although I think I’ve ended up having much more fun and meeting much more interesting people than I thought I would,” Newman says. “I’m not in the situation where people call me when they’re in trouble. For the most part, we’re talking about really exciting things in their lives and working on things that are bringing people a lot of happiness; it’s very constructive.”


In her practice, Newman represents storytellers. These include traditional scriptwriters of comedies and dramas, but Newman also has become the go-to lawyer for creators of non-scripted shows.

“She’s a superstar,” says USC Gould Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. “Her talent and hard work, combined with the education she received at USC Gould, have enabled her to create a meaningful career in a very exciting and ever-changing industry.”

True to her original plan, Newman’s first job after law school was with the entertainment department at Loeb & Loeb, although she still “had not a clue” what she was doing.

“It was really tough for me in the beginning, because I didn’t know much about the business of entertainment,” Newman says. “I realized that my work was as much about the business as it was about the law, and maybe even more so.”

She later worked in television business affairs at MGM, but following the birth of her twins moved into business consulting for law firms in television. In 1988, Newman joined her current firm, then a year old, on a part-time basis for one project, setting up shop in the kitchen and placing phone calls around her colleagues’ snack breaks.

“I found their approach to how they were representing their clients really refreshing,” Newman says. “They were not charging by the hour but charging a percentage, and really wanting to help people, and choosing people that they really believed in — choosing clients they were going to represent for the client’s entire career.”

Newman has been named a “Super Lawyer” since 2007 and year after year is listed in The Hollywood Reporter’s Women in Entertainment.

“Jeanne is a superstar,” says USC Gould Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. “Her talent and hard work, combined with the education she received at USC Gould, have enabled her to create a meaningful career in a very exciting and ever-changing industry.”

One particularly valuable lesson from law school stands out for Newman, who recalls an occasion during orientation week when she and fellow students filed into a classroom and took their seats. A large stack of handouts sat on a table in the middle of the room.

“The professor said, ‘First thing is, get the paper, read the paper: do your homework,’” Newman says. “It’s so important as a lawyer to be prepared — particularly with entertainment lawyers. People think we sort of BS on the phone, and I can’t tell you how much note-taking and preparation goes into the BS-ing on the phone.”

USC Gould also brought together Newman and her husband, Gary ’80, co-chairman of 20th Century Fox Television. The couple in 2005 purchased a second home in the Santa Ynez valley, complete with a working vineyard, named Jorian Hill after their three children (Jordan, Reed and Hillary). The family retreats there about every other weekend.

“We’ve made bunches of friends, we’ve learned so much about winemaking and agriculture and life, but it has not been a turnkey operation,” Newman says. “It’s been the most difficult and rewarding thing I’ve ever done.”
An Entertaining Evolution

By Maria Iacob

Bob Myman ’70 says he appreciated law school as an “intellectual experience.” During his first year, “I realized that I was enjoying the way I was learning to think and to analyze problems,” Myman says. “It was an exciting time to study law. Society was changing, and the law provided structure to organize expanded civil rights and social justice.”

It is his calm, casual, yet focused demeanor that guided him through early law endeavors, enriching his professional prowess and personal life. The native Californian is a founding partner of one of the country’s most prestigious entertainment firms, Myman Greenspan Fineman Fox Rosenberg & Light, LLP.

Exploring opportunities after law school, a classmate encouraged Myman to apply at the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office, where the next two-and-a-half years were spent at what he calls “the grad school of lawyering.”

“In the Public Defender’s Office you learn to be a lawyer,” Myman says. “You’re in court within a day, defending preliminary felony hearings. You learn how to work with the district attorney and the judge and to make friends with the court clerk.”

Myman moved from criminal law to civil, joining law school classmate Tom Fineman ’70 at the downtown law firm Rose Klein & Marias, working on civil litigation and learning from “classy and exquisite trial lawyers.” While grateful for the valuable experience, he recognized he didn’t want to be a litigator for the rest of his career.

At about the same time, a close friend and up-and-coming actor, the late John Ritter, asked Myman to represent him. Having met as students at USC, Myman enjoyed spending time with Ritter and his friends, many of whom were young actors, writers, and directors. Myman provided legal counsel for their plays and projects. They were as close as brothers.

“I consider myself a lucky guy to have had John in my life,” Myman says. “He was a spectacular person. That friendship ultimately helped shape my professional and legal career.”

With his father’s and his wife’s encouragement, Myman took a leap of faith and formed a small firm with college friend Terry Shagin in 1978. Ritter was his first client.

“We handled whatever came through the door. We litigated, formed corporations, real estate deals, etc. I accepted court appointments when the public defender’s office had a conflict. As we grew, we evolved into a transactional entertainment law firm.”

Along the way, Ritter wanted to launch a production company. Myman, happy practicing law, resisted. Ritter won out, and Adam Productions (Ritter named it after Myman’s son) was formed in 1984. A new world opened up for Myman. Producing provided a different vantage point into the entertainment business. His transactional legal skills transferred smoothly to being a producer, and proved invaluable as the company produced multiple series and movies for television.

“Ultimately, it made me a more effective lawyer,” Myman says.

The expansion of his skill set continued when producer Harry Thomason asked Myman to manage talent operations for the 1993 Clinton Presidential Inauguration Committee. He moved to Washington, D.C., for three months. The monumental logistical task included a three-day festival in multiple tents on the Mall, the Lincoln Memorial Celebration, and a dozen Presidential Balls and four Presidential dinners. Fineman joined him in the capital to handle contracts and other legal matters.

“We basically worked 18-hour days, seven days a week,” Myman says. “While unlike anything he’d ever done, ‘I organized it like a lawyer. What do I need? Who can I get to help? We need a team. The way you’re trained to approach problems just infiltrates how you organize and decide what matters and what doesn’t. I enjoy being part of a team,’” says the college and Masters water polo player.

Later, Myman segued back to the law firm, which by then also had a world-class music practice led by founder Eric Greenspan. Today the firm has 19 lawyers, “a smart, remarkably talented group.”

One of the principles he follows to this day was encouraged by former USC Gould Professor Gary Bellow: Discussing legal concerns so that everyone can be part of the conversation.

“We don’t need to write things that only lawyers understand,” Myman says. “When I write a letter or a contractual provision, it should be something that non-lawyers can understand and work with.”

His advice to young lawyers is equally concise: “Put in the time to be really good. Work harder than the other guy. Make your word count. Be honest and focused.”

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His advice to young lawyers is equally concise: “Put in the time to be really good. Work harder than the other guy. Make your word count. Be honest and focused about what you want and what your client needs.

“When I tell people on the other side something, they know I’m serious and they believe it. It’s a relatively small community. You’re trying to get to an agreement both sides can live with. Nothing is more valuable than your word.”

From public defense to litigation to television production, Bob Myman ’70 hones his craft
I marveled how the faces of the alumni inevitably lit up when they saw him.”

—Dean Robert K. Rasmussen

Eugenia “Doll” Moore ’36 died on Nov. 20, 2012. She was 100. An Oklahoma native, Moore spent most of her childhood in Orange, Calif. She received her undergraduate and law degrees from USC, one of two women in the Class of 1936. While at USC Gould, she met her late husband, Robert Lonzon Moore ’36, who would become a well-known trial attorney and adjunct professor at USC. Moore practiced family and probate law, and from 1959 to 1983 served as vice president of the Mills Land & Water Company. She was predeceased by her daughter, Marilyn, and is survived by her son, Robert, and grandson.

Julian C. Isen ’51 died on Aug. 22, 2012, at the age of 95. A Los Angeles native, Isen received his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and his J.D. from USC Gould. After serving in the U.S. Army, Isen worked at Loeb & Loeb for nearly 20 years before starting his own firm, practicing law for more than 60 years. He is survived by his wife of almost 70 years, Joan; children, John and Julie; grandchildren, Cayan, Joshua, Lara and Adam; and great-grandchildren, Luc and Reed.

Roscoe H. Wilkes ’48 died on Feb. 2, 2013. He was 95. Born in Mississippi, Wilkes family moved to Pioche, Nev., when he was 10. As a navigator for the Army Air Corps during WWII, Wilkes flew 27 successful missions before being shot down over the Ploesti oil fields of Romania, where he was imprisoned until the end of the war. After attending USC Gould, he set up a law practice in Pioche and later served three terms as the district attorney of Lincoln and White Pine counties, serving as a colonel. He is survived by his second wife, Susan; children, Sally, George, Barbara, John, Susan and Andrea; four grandchildren; great-granddaughter; and sister and brother.

Loyal D. Frazier, Sr., ’33 died on March 11, 2013. He was 99. A native of Frazier Bottom, W.Va., Frazier enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served with the 21st Special Construction Battalion in the Admiralty Islands, the Philippines and in the Asian theatre before being discharged in 1946. He received his B.A. and LL.B. from USC. He practiced law in Oxnard before opening his own firm, which became known as Frazier, Dame & Doherty. He practiced law as the senior partner until his retirement in 2007. He was past president of the Ventura County Bar Association and of the Oxnard Noon- timer’s Lions Club. He was predeceased by his wife, Ellen; children, Lloyd and Susan; and his brother, Dean; stepchildren, Mark and Terri; 16 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Richard D. Runkle ’53 died Jan. 12, 2013, at the age of 84. A third-generation Angeleno, Runkle graduated from UCLA as a four-year letterman before attending USC Gould. He was a trial lawyer for more than 40 years and a principal founding member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He was an accomplished golfer and served on the executive committee of the United States Golf Association. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Priscilla (“Pam”); daughters, Cathy and Betsy; and grandchildren, Richard and Magdalene.

Myron E. Harpole ’57 died on Oct. 10, 2012. He was 85. He graduated from Harvard Law School before serving in the Korean War with the U.S. Marine Corps, where he was the principal prosecutor of the General Courts Martial for a 23,000-man division. After release from active duty, Harpole entered into a tax law practice, forming with George Witter the firm of Witter and Harpole. Harpole received his LL.M. from USC Gould and continued to practice for more than 60 years. He remained active in the Marine Corps reserves and eventually retired as a colonel. He is survived by his second wife, Susan; children, Sally, George, Barbara, John, Susan and Andrea; four grandchildren; great-granddaughter; and sister and brother.

Howard L. Thaler ’58 died March 11, 2013. He was 81. Born in New York, Thaler was a U.S. Navy veteran and lifelong Trojan fan who practiced law in Beverly Hills for more than 30 years. He is survived by four children and four grandchildren.

Robert Bernstein ’59 died on Feb. 13, 2013, at the age of 78. He received his B.A. from UCLA and after attending USC Gould practiced as an attorney for many years before becoming a professor at Southwestern Law School. He later owned a gaming equipment manufacturing company in Carson, Calif. He is survived by his children, Leslie and Larry, and two grandchildren.

Douglas R. Taylor ’63 died Jan. 11, 2013, at the age of 74. Born in Los Angeles, Taylor received his B.A. and LL.B. from USC, where he met his wife, Judy. He spent several years running his own law firm and later grew a small family-run company into a large corporation. As president and CEO, he worked side by side with his wife. Taylor is survived by his wife, children, Toby and Tracy; and four grandchildren.

Francis E. Jones, Jr. Francis E. Jones, Jr., known to generations of USC Gould students as “FEJ,” died Dec. 22, 2012, at the age of 92. Jones joined the USC Gould faculty in the fall of 1954 as a visiting associate professor of law, and the next year joined the faculty on a permanent basis. He retired in 1986. “FEJ was a mainstay at our school for decades, and taught broadly and deeply across the curriculum. He was a very distinctive teacher, and clearly had his own style,” says Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. “I was fortunate enough to meet FEJ at a couple USC Gould Reunion events. I marveled how the faces of the alumni inevitably lit up when they saw him. He was a teacher who left his imprint on those who were fortunate to be in one of his classes.”

His courses over the years included Constitutional Law, First Amendment, Torts, Jurisprudence, Civil Rights, Community Property, and Policy — a course of his own creation.

Born in Hartford, Conn., Jones attended Yale College and was a captain in the U.S. Army, serving five years, with three in the Pacific Theatre. He earned his J.D. and LL.M. at Georgetown Law School.

Aram Peter Kezirian, Jr. ’89 died on Nov. 19, 2012. He was 48. Born in L.A., Kezirian graduated from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service before attending USC Gould. He practiced corporate and securities law for six years before joining the Cooperative of American Physicians—Mutual Protection Trust, a medical malpractice trust, 14 years ago. Kezirian had a lifelong interest in public service and politics and served as a member of Gov. George Deukmejian’s reelection campaign finance team. He was appointed by Gov. Pete Wilson as general counsel for the California Department of Corporations. With the ratification of Armenia’s constitution, Kezirian was a member of the faculty for the 1995 Armenian Judicial Conference in Yerevan. He was a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations, evaluating NATO’s military role in Bosnia and Kosovo, and other issues. He was a member of the Pacific Council on International Policy and more recently served as a German Marshall Plan Fellow. Kezirian, a fifth-generation Armenian-American, was a member of the Armenian Assembly and served as its state chair in California. Kezirian is survived by his wife, Michelle; mother Marilyn; and four younger brothers, Michael, Eric, Stephen, and Douglas.

Daniel K. Redman ’91 died on Nov. 1, 2012, at the age of 48. Born in San Jose, Calif., Redman studied at the University of California—Berkeley before attending USC Gould. He is survived by his partner, Thomas; his mother, Janet; his father, Keith; and his brother, Paul.
CONGRATULATIONS to the students, faculty and staff celebrated at USC Gould’s 2013 Annual Awards ceremony

Prof. Rebecca Brown, William A. Rutter Distinguished Teaching Award; Prof. Donald Scotten, Student Bar Association adjunct faculty member of the year; Assistant Director of Student Affairs Debra Barnett, SBA staff member of the year; Prof. Thomas Griffith, SBA professor of the year. Shattuck Award winners: third-year students Ryan Estes, Neal Gauger, Jasmyn Jones, Michael Santos, Amy Shayne, and Jackson Trugman. Miller Johnson Equal Justice Prize: Ali Al-Sarraf ’13; Mason C. Brown Award: Megan Hopkins ’13; Graduate and International Programs Students of the Year: Duke Larry, Simon Abbott and Zhiwei Liu. Third-year students who received judicial clerkships: Melissa Boey, for the Honorable Christopher Sontchi (District of Delaware); Jennifer Chang, for the Honorable Steven W. Taylor (Oklahoma Supreme Court); David Carlo, for the Honorable Ruggero J. Aldisert (3rd Cir.); Katrina Dula Cruz, for the Honorable Ronald S.W. Law (C.D. Cal.); Jeffrey Gilbert, for the Honorable Manuel Real (C.D. Cal.); Jamie Haine, for the Honorable James V. Selna (C.D. Cal.); Douglas Hewitt, for the Honorable Patrick J. Walsh (C.D. Cal.); Ashley Kaplan, for the Honorable George H. King (C.D. Cal.); John Major, for the Honorable Paul J. Watford (9th Cir.); and the Honorable Alex Kozinski (9th Cir.); Cindy Organ, for the Honorable F. Michael Kusza (High Court of American Samoa); Shannon Paj, for the Honorable Patrick J. Walsh (C.D. Cal.); and Andy Tan, for the Honorable Andrew Gordon (District of Nevada).

A FOUNDATION OF SUPPORT

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Annual gifts to the law school are a proud tradition and provide vital resources for:

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- Recruitment and investment in faculty who are leaders in their fields
- Support for interdisciplinary centers and student honor programs
- Funding for students to engage in USC’s long-standing commitment to public interest law

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If every USC Gould graduate gave $1,000 or more, we would have an annual fund of at least $10,000,000!

The USC Law Leadership Society was created to thank and recognize those alumni and friends who do just that every year. Members enjoy special opportunities to connect with the law school and other members of this valued community.

To become a leadership donor and review the benefits of our different giving tiers, visit http://law.usc.edu/leadership/ or call 213-821-3565.
calendar

SATURDAY, JUNE 1
USC Gould Alumni Day at the Park
Kenneth Hahn State Recreational Park

FRIDAY, JUNE 7
Criminal Law at the Crossroads conference
USC Gould School of Law

SATURDAY, JUNE 15
USC Gould Reunion
JW Marriott at LA Live, downtown Los Angeles

SATURDAY, SEPT. 7
USC Gould Alumni Association Tailgate
USC Gould, Crocker Plaza

TUESDAY, SEPT. 24
U.S. Supreme Court: A Preview
USC Town and Gown

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25
Half Century Trojans Reunion Luncheon
Town and Gown, University Park Campus

SATURDAY, OCT. 5
2013 Institute on Entertainment Law and Business
USC Gould
(Continuing Legal Education program)

THURSDAY, NOV. 14
12th Annual Law and Humanities Distinguished Lecture:
Mahmood Mamdani
USC Gould

FRIDAY, NOV. 22
39th Annual Trust and Estate Conference
The Westin Bonaventure Hotel
(Continuing Legal Education program)

TUESDAY, DEC. 3
2013 Institute for Corporate Counsel
Private Club, Downtown Los Angeles
(Continuing Legal Education program)

TUESDAY, DEC. 3
Bar Admission Ceremony
USC Town and Gown

SATURDAY, DEC. 14
USC Gould Alumni Association Holiday Party
Location TBD

ON THE COVER: Special thanks to Grace King ’14, Rom Bar-Nissim ’13, Alysa Dillard ’14, Joshua Moore ’14, Daniel Arriola ’14, and Melissa Zonne ’14, along with Michael Hartman ’13.