

SPRING 2009

USC | LAW Magazine



The
many faces *of*
public service



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ON THE COVER

[The many faces of public service](#)

Twenty years ago, a handful of public service-minded USC Law students banded together to establish the Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF), an organization whose members today create and sponsor activities that benefit countless individuals and families throughout the greater Los Angeles community. PILF advances a tradition of service whose USC Law roots include the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and the Western Center on Law and Poverty. The legacy of these organizations is embodied by USC Law's seven legal clinics, which provide aid while acquainting students with front-line legal work that will make them better lawyers. Student-led groups serve other populations, as well: Legal Aid Alternative Breaks, for example, travels to blighted communities around the country to offer legal and other assistance, while Street Law educates young students about law, democracy and human rights. Thanks to the generous care and visionary support of USC Law's leadership, alumni and friends, today the school's public service programs are thriving at a time when they are needed most.

Pictured above: members of the Legal Aid Clinic at USC circa 1931



DEPARTMENTS

2 [Dean's Message](#)

3 [News](#)

2005 graduates co-found Young Alumni Association; Steve Cooley '73 elected to historic third term; Yvonne Burke '56 retires after decades of service to L.A. County; and more

10 [Quick Takes](#)

Fall clerkship reception draws record crowd; mentor program pairs J.D. and LL.M. students; Dick Rothschild '75 receives prestigious award; and more

24 [Faculty News](#)

Dan Simon examines wrongful convictions; Q & A with Ariela Gross; and Faculty Footnotes

32 [Closer](#)

Professor David Cruz on marriage equality and the aftermath of Proposition 8



FEATURES

- 12 [Staying Power](#)
USC's Public Interest Law Foundation celebrates 20-year anniversary
- 18 [Domestic affairs](#)
Alan Hoffman '91 and Michael Schroeder '82 find calling in politics
- 20 [Insider's view](#)
Supreme Court visit enhances innovative writing course
- 22 [Remembering Charlie](#)
A tribute to the late USC Law Professor Charles H. Whitebread



PROFILES

- 28 [Alan Kang '04](#)
Avid biker follows entrepreneurial spirit into the bicycle business
- 29 [Fred Ryan '80](#)
Former Reagan chief of staff makes breakthroughs in politics, communications
- 30 [Mark Chatow '93](#)
After three major ventures, successful businessman looks for a new path
- 31 [Catherine Hart '84](#)
SkinnyJeans founder finds better fit in fashion industry



Well-connected

Our country is going through perhaps the most momentous change in its economy during our lifetimes. In all of our endeavors — running a law school, providing legal services, conducting business — we need to proactively confront the new reality that is unfolding. Lawyers are often at the forefront of change, and I expect that many of the current challenges facing our nation will be addressed through the leadership of USC Law alumni.

The new economic environment presents both challenges and opportunities. Of all the country's top law schools, few are as well-positioned as we are to navigate the challenges and seize the opportunities. Our cautious optimism is based in large part on our alumni and friends' willingness to help. The market for legal jobs is becoming increasingly competitive, and our graduates are fortunate that they can turn to one another for assistance. Indeed, our Career Services Office is providing counsel and resources to both students and alumni, to ensure that they can find rewarding opportunities, whether it be in private practice, public service or business. It is times like these when the strength of our alumni network is of the utmost importance.

Many of you have asked me about the ability of current and future law students to afford the quality education we provide. I can assure you that we are doing all that we can on this front. Approximately 90 percent of our students are receiving some form

"I expect that many of the current challenges facing our nation will be addressed through the leadership of USC Law alumni."

of financial aid. In addition to granting a median scholarship award of \$15,000 to incoming students, last year we raised tuition by a smaller amount than our peers, and we anticipate modest increases in the coming years. It is imperative that we do all that we can to ensure that the coming generation has the opportunity to become part of the USC Law community.

The strength of our alumni is illustrated in the pages of this magazine. We at USC Law are proud of the achievements detailed here, and equally proud of each of you as you contribute to the USC legacy. It is your achievements, assistance to USC Law graduates, and contributions to your law school that provide the foundation on which we rest. I am grateful both for the law school that you helped create and for the support that I know you will continue to provide as we move forward.

All my best,

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

Alumni embrace challenge of California Superior Court

Judged on their merits

Patricia Nieto '77

Patricia Nieto '77 was serving as a commissioner in Eastlake Juvenile Court in Los Angeles in 2007 when several of her colleagues suggested that she seek election to the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

"I said, 'Oh, I'm terrible at asking people for money!'" recalls Nieto, who won her election last June. "They told me I wouldn't have to do too much of that, but once I committed to running, I realized

"I've always been active in the field, but I don't know how politicians do it," she says. "Still, it's fun in the sense that so many people you meet take it very seriously. They really want to know what you think."

The voters' desire to learn a judicial candidate's political opinions can lead to awkward moments on the campaign trail, since judges must refrain from commenting on issues that may come before them on the bench.

Glenda S. Allen-Hill '83, appointed to the bench last summer in the Fresno County Superior Court, remembers voters asking such questions when she ran for superior court several years ago.

"There's always a little controversy in an election, especially in a judicial election, because you can't talk about what you're going to do if elected," she says. "But people expect you to run as a politician like anyone else would."

Allen-Hill, who served as a commissioner in the superior court for 18 years before becoming the county's first African-American female judge, says that her new role brings additional clout to her work.

"It hasn't been a change for me in the work I do, but being a judge is a more powerful position," she says. "You help make policy decisions of the court, and to be able to contribute to that, I did want to be a full player in that position."

James Bianco '87, who was elected to Los Angeles County Superior Court last summer, said he wanted to be a judge because, as an attorney, he saw how the position can affect the fairness of the system.

"I really enjoy making hard decisions," he says. "In this job, you're faced with it every day. It is such a challenge."

Bianco says he ran for office because he had grown impatient with the appointments process, which is political in its own right. He says that only when he began campaigning did he realize how much support he had, particularly from the law school and fellow USC Law alumni.

"You're certainly putting yourself out there," he says. "Ultimately, the support you receive from the legal community speaks for itself."

— Darren Schenck



Glenda Allen-Hill '83



James Bianco '87

how much work I had in front of me. If you're going to run for office, you have to do it all the way, because people are supporting you."

Nieto says she ran a grassroots campaign that leaned heavily on her husband and colleagues to help arrange events and speaking engagements, which were held at least four nights a week and on weekends.

Young Alumni Association
energizes grads from all years

BEYOND the business card

Nina Goldberg '05 and Christopher Gordon '05

During their final year at USC Law, then-SBA President Christopher Gordon '05 and 3L Vice President Nina Goldberg *nee* Sacks '05 looked forward to staying connected with their friends and classmates after graduation through the law school's alumni association.

There was only one problem: The school didn't have an alumni association.

"You always hear about the Trojan Network, but there was no formal manifestation of it," says Goldberg, who works in corporate law at Baker Hostetler LLP in Los Angeles. "We were a pretty close class, and we wanted to make an alumni group happen."

"Nina and I really enjoyed ourselves in law school," says Gordon, a family law practitioner with Hersh, Mannis & Bogen in Beverly Hills. "As we were starting our careers, we wanted to create a mechanism for staying in touch with each other and with the school."

Gordon and Goldberg worked with then-Alumni Relations Director Eric Wang '00 to create the Young Alumni Association (YAA), a group that invites alumni from all class years to reconnect

online and at events held throughout L.A. and Orange counties. Gordon and Goldberg serve as co-chairs of the Leadership Committee, which comprises more than 50 alumni who agree to participate in events, contact fellow classmates and make a gift each year to the law school.

The Young Alumni Association initially focused on alumni who had graduated during the past 10 years, primarily for logistical reasons: Considering there are nearly 9,000 USC Law alumni, co-chairs Gordon and Goldberg needed to begin with a more manageable number, and they simply knew more graduates from recent class years.

"The alumni association was always intended to be an inclusive organization; all alumni are encouraged to attend our events," says Goldberg.

Gordon describes YAA events as social occasions where alumni and friends can relax and have fun, all the while making contacts.

"It's networking without anyone realizing it's networking," he says. "The events are social, but let's face it — when you get a bunch of attorneys together, we're going to talk about work."



Alumni from all classes are invited to participate in YAA events, which include bar reviews, tailgates and hikes.

The emergence of online social networking has equipped Gordon and Goldberg with powerful tools for expanding the YAA's reach and fostering community wherever USC Law alumni live [see sidebar].

"Everyone understands the quality of person who went to USC Law, so we're not trying to change the network, but grow it in different ways," says Gordon.

In Orange County, Sean Kundu '07 has taken the lead in organizing events for alumni who can't afford to spend two or three hours driving to L.A. for a mid-week gathering.

"It's really important for alumni to be involved with the school, to continue to get USC in the national spotlight," says Kundu, who practices labor and employment law at Fisher & Phillips LLP in Irvine. "USC's network is unbelievable, but unless you tap into it, you're not going to get anything out of it."

Emily Page, assistant director of development and graduate relations, works with Gordon and Goldberg to support, promote and publicize YAA programs and events.

"This would not have happened without Eric and Emily," says Goldberg.

"Ultimately, through a wide range of activities, we hope to create a relaxed environment in which alumni can make new connections and remain in touch with old friends," says Gordon. "We hope that this will also foster stronger ties between the alumni community and the school."

To learn more about the Young Alumni Association, or to register your class on Facebook, contact Emily Page at epage@law.usc.edu.

— Darren Schenck

The network's net worth

What are you doing right now?

If that question made you think of yourself in the third person, then you're probably hooked on Facebook.

The social networking site that began in 2004 has become the most highly trafficked and successful in a line of such sites, including MySpace and LinkedIn. All of them offer the user an easy way to build a network of friends, family members and colleagues — anyone with whom you might wish to share information, from your current resume and references to vacation photos and whatever you happen to be doing at the moment.

The Young Alumni Association has found these sites particularly helpful in enabling alumni to network and socialize online and to learn about events and involvement opportunities. Eric Wang '00 says his class has its own Facebook page, as do several others, all set up and maintained by the law school.

"My class started with about 20 friends, or users," says Wang. "Now the number is up to 65, which is pretty good, considering that Facebook wasn't available to us when we were in law school."

Scott Burroughs '04, a partner with Stephen M. Doniger '95 in the law firm Doniger/Burroughs, says that Facebook has become a valuable tool for attracting clients. Last year, when he announced on Facebook that his firm was initiating a class-action



lawsuit, a woman in his Facebook network who works in broadcasting noticed the post and produced a television news story about the lawsuit.

"Instead of making 30 phone calls, you can post something online and have 30 people read it and respond," says Burroughs. "In an industry where so much work is obtained through networking, online networking is invaluable."

Even as Facebook and LinkedIn increase one's reach, they also provide a stable location for people whose jobs, phone numbers and e-mail addresses may change every few years.

"They've introduced a constant by which people can keep in touch in a changing world," says Wang. "And it's fun."

To learn how you and your class can create and build online networks through Facebook and LinkedIn, e-mail Emily Page, assistant director of development and graduate relations, at epage@law.usc.edu. The law school also offers an online portal exclusively for alumni. To register, visit mylaw.usc.edu.

— Darren Schenck



International and interdisciplinary

Takuya Morimoto LL.M. '05 had a flourishing career with Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, where he helped complete one of the largest mortgage loan acquisitions in its history. When it was time to take the next step in his career, Morimoto looked to USC.

He decided to enroll in two intensive, yearlong programs for international students, receiving his LL.M. from the USC Gould School of Law and his MBA through the USC Marshall School of Business International Business Education and Research (IBEAR) program. He is one of eight USC alumni to have completed international programs at the two schools; seven of them received both law and business degrees.

"The USC LL.M. and IBEAR programs got me through the door to be where I am," says Morimoto, now a transfer pricing specialist in Deloitte Tax LLP's international tax group. "I

thought having business as well as legal knowledge would benefit me as a businessperson. Studying at USC provided me opportunities to find my personal niche, which guided me to work in international transactions."

The programs are rigorous and fast-paced. USC Law's LL.M. students complete nine or 10 classes over two semesters, while the 12-month IBEAR program consists of 19 courses and a consulting project over five eight-week terms.

"Both programs are well-planned and organized for busy business professionals to learn the basic concepts of law and business



Go Sato

Mid-career students tackle both law and business at USC

during a one-year period," says Go Sato, who in 2006 resigned from the board of Japan's Hitachi Chemical after 41 years to study at USC.

After earning an MBA from Marshall, Sato spent the 2007-08 academic year as a Visiting International Program student at USC Law, where he laid the groundwork for his current yearlong study of the difference between American and Japanese management and governance systems. He plans to create a hybrid governance theory for Japanese and American companies.

"Studying both law and business at USC was very helpful and valuable for me to improve my understanding about how the American legal and free market economic systems have supported American companies in developing their energy and dynamism for innovation and new business opportunities," Sato says.

Both the law and business programs attract students from a myriad of nations and cultures and from diverse fields including finance, manufacturing, information technology and transportation.

Munsu Kim LL.M. '08, who was an attorney in Kawoo International Law Partners in Seoul, South Korea, completed the full-time MBA program before earning his LL.M.

"Obtaining my LL.M. and MBA means that I can think differently, and I now know how to analyze and develop strategy to solve a problem," says Kim. "These programs provide strong academic courses as well as precious experience in L.A., where students experience international and American culture at the same time."

— Lori Craig

Above left: Munsu Kim LL.M. '08 and Takuya Morimoto LL.M. '05

New bar prep program

USC Law's LL.M. students have something extra in their corner when it comes to sitting for the bar exam: the Early Bar Preparation Program.

Launched last spring by the Graduate and International Programs (G&IP) Office and modeled after the J.D. Early Bar Preparation, the program offers four workshops to introduce LL.M. students to the components of the New York and California state bar exams.

"We got an overwhelming response," says Associate Dean Deborah Call, head of G&IP.

Much of the credit goes to Adjunct Professor John Heilman '82, who taught each of the five-hour prep courses and whose Topics in American Law course is highly popular with international students.

The program covers contracts, real property, a multistate workshop and a performance exam. While LL.M. students don't take the basic J.D. first-year courses, in the bar prep's contracts and real property workshops they review substantive law, read essays, outline, and review and generate questions. Students are assigned practice exams in the multistate and performance exam workshops, which are then graded by bar review instructors.

More than two-thirds of USC Law's G&IP students take the bar exam, generally New York's or California's. Their pass rate rose by 15 percent last spring, following the first bar prep program.



Good Company

Daron Watts '94 joins Board of Councilors

Daron Watts '94 is a self-described “happy camper.” One of the newest members of USC Law’s Board of Councilors, Watts balances his life as a partner at Sidley Austin LLP, a manager of a nonprofit organization he co-founded to prevent obesity in underserved communities, a husband and a father to two young daughters.

Despite his busy schedule, Watts immediately said “yes” when invited to serve on the board by Dean Robert K. Rasmussen.

“I love the institution, and I would love to see it grow into what it can be,” says Watts.

Since graduation, Watts has been involved with many alumni opportunities such as volunteering in the mock interview program, judging for the Hale Moot Court Honors Program, supporting the Public Interest Law Foundation’s activities, and leading Sidley Austin’s recruiting efforts at USC.

Watts’ fondness for USC Law is evident as he recalls his first visit to the school, where he was greeted by name and given a tour of classes and departments.

“Of every place I considered, it had the warmest family feel,” he says. “I wanted a top-notch law school, but I didn’t want some of the warts that can come with that. At USC, we were learning with and from each other, and striving for excellence against ourselves and not against each other.”

Watts says he sought that same balance when he interviewed at law firms. Sidley Austin, he says, provides the symmetry he was seeking.

Watts heads up the firm’s West Coast Food and Drug Practice Group, focusing on regulatory, litigation and policy matters on behalf of clients regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. In the course of his practice, Watts became aware of the nation’s considerable health disparities and decided to put his efforts toward one concern: obesity. His Coalition to Promote Minority Health leverages the contacts he has made over the years — community organizations, corporations, government agencies and congressional leaders — and supports programs that educate communities on preventive health measures and the relationship between obesity and chronic diseases.

“You can visit communities where the infrastructure promotes a healthy lifestyle,” says Watts. “They have lush parks where people can walk their dogs or go jogging, and their restaurants offer healthier food options. We want to make sure that all communities have what they need to succeed, whether it is attracting the right types of service providers or grassroots efforts that seek to holistically alter a consumer’s attitude to food and lifestyle changes.”

Considering his enthusiasm, philanthropy and legal expertise — last year he was named to the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*’s “Top 20 under 40” list of California’s best young lawyers — Watts is a welcome addition to the group providing the guidance and counsel that moves USC Law forward.

— Maria Iacobo

THE JURY *is in*

District Attorney Steve Cooley '73 re-elected to historic third term

In November 2005, Mexico's Supreme Court overturned a previous decision that barred the extradition of its citizens accused of crimes carrying a life sentence.

The court's 6-5 vote cleared the way for thousands of alleged killers and drug traffickers — including several hundred in Los Angeles County — to stand trial in the United States. It also ended a four-year campaign, led by L.A. County District Attorney Steve Cooley '73, to bring justice to the families of murder victims.

"It was a great team effort involving many law enforcement agencies, but our office clearly led that fight, and we've since been successful in apprehending and prosecuting murderers who've fled to Mexico," Cooley says.

The list includes Jorge "Armando" Arroyo Garcia, who in 2007 pleaded guilty to first-degree murder for killing Los Angeles Sheriff's Deputy David March during a routine traffic stop. Garcia was sentenced to life in a California prison without possibility of parole.

Cooley's success in leading the international effort is just one of many milestones achieved during his tenure. Today, after yet another landslide win in 2008 and with the county crime rate at a 50-year low, he is the first L.A. district attorney in more than 70 years to be elected to a third consecutive term.

"The victory was really about the men and women in my office who have done a tremendous job over the last eight years," says Cooley, who hired more than a third of the prosecutors currently working in the D.A.'s office.

Cooley's 34 years of service to the county began as a law clerk in 1973. By January 1974, he was sworn in as a deputy district attorney and soon was leading the Major Narcotics Section. In 1984, he was appointed head deputy. Then in 2000, he decided to run for office.

In his first term, Cooley issued a new policy designed to ensure proportionate application of California's three-strikes law. He also established the Public Integrity Division, which prosecuted politicians whose corrupt conduct had gone unpunished for years.

Plans for his final four years — he says he will not run for a fourth term — include enhancing the agency's use of technology.



"We're using digital capabilities that are going to be a model for the rest of the country," Cooley says. "We're digitizing criminal case files, introducing electronic subpoenas. All this is building toward electronic case filing."

Cooley says much of the innovation generated by his office is driven by necessity. As head of the largest prosecutorial agency in the nation, he directs 1,000 prosecutors, 300 investigators and more than 800 support staff who work together to prosecute 60,000 felonies and 200,000 misdemeanors annually.

"Our jurisdiction covers 10.4 million people," he notes. "We have to look at every possible way to manage a huge amount of information."

Cooley also says the county's large and diverse population is reflected in his office's hiring.

"No gender, no nationality, no ethnicity, no partisan group should have a monopoly on justice," he says. "Now our office, more than ever, represents the face of Los Angeles County, and that brings integrity to our justice system. I hope that will be my legacy."

— Rizza Barnes

Leading by example



USC Law Reunion 2006



Members of the USC Law Class of 1956

Yvonne Burke '56 retires from the L.A. County Board of Supervisors

If there is a pattern to Yvonne Burke's career, it is characterized by "firsts."

Burke is the first African-American woman elected to the California Assembly, the first African-American woman to represent California in the United States Congress, the first woman to chair the Congressional Black Congress, and the first African-American elected to Los Angeles County supervisor.

Burke's accomplishments have been plentiful, but hard won. Law school for women — let alone African-American women — was not an easy path in the early 1950s. Having heard that African-Americans were not treated well at some of the other schools where she was accepted, Burke decided to "take a chance on USC," she says.

Only the second African-American woman to be accepted to USC Law, Burke was told at the outset that even women graduating at the top of their class did not receive job offers from firms.

"I knew that women didn't get job offers, but I just figured I was going to make it," Burke says.

After some initial difficulty, she landed a job with the state of California. It wasn't until 1965, when she organized a legal defense team for the Watts rioters, that Burke's career in public service began. A seat in the state assembly opened up the next year, and Burke was urged to run. Harboring no desire to be in public office, Burke nevertheless ran and won. Re-elected twice more, Burke established a state uninsured workers' compensation fund and required the highway patrol to include women in its hiring, among her other accomplishments.

In 1972, a court-mandated reapportionment created a new congressional district encompassing southwestern Los Angeles. Burke won the seat and joined Barbara Jordan as the second and third women to serve in the U.S. Congress.

"I've always had to prove myself," says Burke. "You can believe that when I walked into law school they probably looked at me and said, 'Oh gosh, she's probably a dumb one.' But, I have always assumed that no one is going to see me and say, 'she fits the mold' as a lawyer."

Confronting the discrimination she had faced in her career, Burke championed equal rights opportunities for minority-owned businesses in the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. She introduced the Displaced Homemakers Act, authorizing the creation of job-training centers for women who were re-entering the labor market after a long absence, and introduced a bill prohibiting pregnancy-related discrimination in the workplace.

Declining to run for a fourth term because of the toll the travel took on her family, Burke returned to Los Angeles and ran for attorney general. Unsuccessful, she continued to practice law. In 1992, with a seat on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors open and her daughter college-bound, Burke ran and won; she was re-elected three more times before retiring last year.

"I feel very proud of the fact that women, particularly minority women, could see someone do what I have done," she says. "I've had women come up to me and say they would never have become a lawyer or run for office but for seeing me do it."

— Maria Iacobo



HIGHEST HONORS

Richard "Dick" Rothschild '75, a 32-year litigator and appellate lawyer with the Western Center on Law & Poverty, received the 2008 Loren Miller Legal Services Award, the highest public interest honor from the California State Bar.

Dubbed the "dean of public interest law" by the *Daily Journal*, Rothschild joined the Western Center in 1976 as a staff attorney and became director of litigation in 1984. Over the past three decades he has been involved in much of the landmark litigation enforcing the rights of low-income Californians, including *Serrano v. Priest*, which changed the state's school funding structure.



From left: Kim Baker Guillemet '05, Sara Van Hofwegen '09, Dana Treister '94, Lacreta and Jack Scott, Jen Flory '05 and Ben Conway '06

Celebrating 15 years

Family, friends and faculty gathered at USC Law last September to remember Adam Freeman Scott '93 and to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the endowment fund created in his memory.

"Adam Scott was deeply dedicated to equality and social justice, and he demonstrated that dedication by his active involvement in projects aiding the homeless, the hungry and the poor," said Professor Scott Bice '68. "The endowment is a testament to the inspiration that Adam brought to us all."

Since the fund was created, 16 grants have been awarded to USC Law students committed to public service. Adam's family, including his father, California State Senator Jack Scott, actively supports the fund and meets with each of the grant recipients.

To make a gift to the memorial fund, or for more information, please contact the USC Law Office of Development and Graduate Relations at 213-743-1710 or alumni@law.usc.edu.



Robert Rasmussen and Robert Loewen '75

BEST YEAR EVER

Attorneys from throughout Los Angeles, including several USC Law alumni, participated in the school's annual Fall Clerkship Reception to encourage first-year students to pursue judicial clerkships after graduation.

Many said clerking was the best year of their legal careers, including Robert Loewen '75, who clerked for Justice Byron R. White at the U.S. Supreme Court and for Judge Walter Ely of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

David Walsh '85, partner at Paul Hastings and chair of the USC Law Board of Councilors' Select Committee on Federal Judicial Clerkships, said: "No lawyer who was lucky enough to clerk has ever said that she wished she hadn't; you will meet many, many lawyers who wish that they had."

Held at Town and Gown, the reception — which drew a record attendance of more than 150 — was sponsored by Munger, Tolles & Olson; Jones Day; Morrison & Foerster; Paul Hastings; Sidley Austin; Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher; and Irell & Manella.

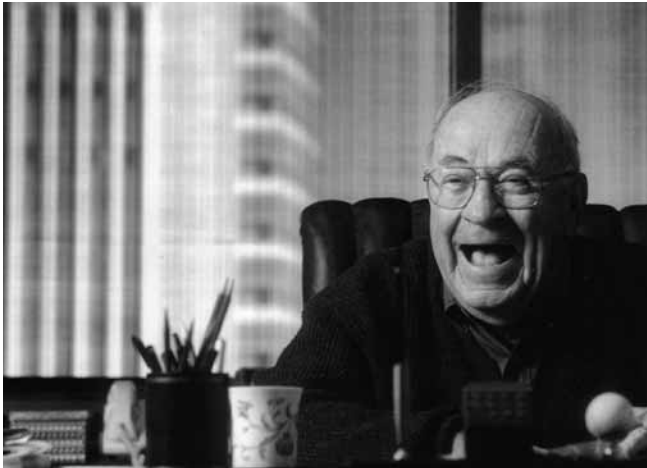
A reception for students applying for clerkships will be held this spring.

MEET THE SCHOLARS

The California Bar Foundation (CBF) last fall awarded nearly \$20,000 in scholarships to five USC Law students and two recent graduates. Third-year student Elizabeth Gonzalez and second-year students Ashley Johndro and Rebecca Raizman each received a Public Interest Scholarship, while first-year students Cristina Pena and Marwa Mohamed Rifahie received the inaugural CBF Diversity Scholarship. Pena also was named the Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP Scholar and received a \$7,500 award to assist with tuition and other education-related expenses. Jean Marie Doherty '08 and Lindsay Toczylowski '08 both received a Rosenthal Bar Exam Scholarship to help ease the burden of preparing for and taking the bar.



Scholarship recipients with CBF President Scott Wylie



Remembering Judge Ferguson

A special court session in memory of Judge Warren J. Ferguson '49, the late senior circuit judge of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, was held in November at the Ronald Reagan United States Courthouse in Santa Ana, Calif. U.S. District Court Chief Judge Alicemarie Stotler '67 presided over the event, which drew many of Ferguson's former clerks, including Sheryl Gordon McCloud '84 and Valerie Flugge '83.

Ferguson, who began his career on the bench as a judge of the Anaheim Municipal Court in 1959, had been a highly respected member of the 9th Circuit since 1979. He died June 25, 2008, at age 87.

To honor his lifelong commitment to social justice, USC Law has established an endowment to fund the Judge Warren J. Ferguson Public Interest Summer Fellowship. The fund will award an annual summer internship to a talented and passionate law student interested in working full time on a public interest issue. To donate, or for more information, contact the Office of Development and Graduate Relations at 213-743-1710 or alumni@law.usc.edu.

No justice for juveniles

In his presentation of the 2008 Justice Lester W. Roth '16 Lecture last October, the Honorable Terry J. Hatter Jr. addressed the state of juvenile justice in the United States.

The system is failing the country's youth, mostly because prosecutors and politicians strive to be "tough on crime," said Hatter, U.S. senior district judge for the Central District of California.

Although medical and psychological evidence shows young people lack maturity and decision-making skills, too often juveniles are tried as adults, Hatter said.

"Clearly, it's becoming easier and easier to try juveniles in adult-level court in every state," Hatter said. "I wonder if we as a society have abdicated our responsibilities to the youth."



TEAMING UP

USC Law students are building new friendships and bridging cultural and language barriers through the J.D./LL.M. Partnership Program.

Now in its second year, the peer mentorship program pairs more than 100 interested J.D. and LL.M. students, who meet at least once a semester to get to know one another and discuss everything from law school classes to favorite television programs.

The personal setting also provides an opportunity for both students to practice their language skills and learn about each others' cultures. USC Law's 95 LL.M. students come from 23 different countries, including Taiwan, China, Thailand, Germany and Jamaica.

Above: Kyu Bin Lim LL.M. '09 chats with his mentor

LINCOLN COLLECTION

The bicentennial celebration of President Abraham Lincoln's birthday Feb. 12 gave USC Law the chance to highlight its unique collection of Lincoln artifacts.

Housed in the Law Library, the Lincoln Reading Room features books dating back to the 1860s, including rare volumes, first editions, an engraving of the Lincoln family and a micrograph of the Emancipation Proclamation. The replica Victorian fireplace and furniture duplicate the Lincoln living room in Springfield, Ill.

The book collection contains 151 titles and 192 volumes. Among the standouts is *Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln by Distinguished Men of his Time* (1886), collected and edited by Allen Thorndike Rice, which contains essays about Lincoln by individuals who knew him.

The collection came to USC Law from Dr. H. McLeod Patterson, via the International Trial Lawyers Association (ITLA). Patterson assembled the collection and presented it to a member of the ITLA to show his gratitude for the attorney's honorable service.

When the ITLA decided to donate the room and collection, association member James Ackerman '48 suggested it go to his alma mater, USC Law, where it has been proudly displayed since 1998.



USC Law celebrates two decades of PILF

Staying power

By Rizza Barnes

USC Law's commitment to public service took center stage in November during a downtown Los Angeles gathering that celebrated the 20th anniversary of USC's Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF), honored Professor Scott Bice '68 and his wife, Barbara, for their tireless support of PILF, and bid farewell to Associate Dean Lisa Mead '89.

Co-founded by a small group of students including Mead and Karen Lash '87, PILF is dedicated to developing a service ethic among law students and to facilitating careers in public interest. Through PILF clinics and summer grants, students have obtained legal relief for the homeless, low-income working families and other vulnerable populations.

The following pages offer a history of PILF, a snapshot of the law school's tradition of public service, and a look at current pro bono work at USC.

Right: Photos from PILF events, including its 20th anniversary celebration



A LOOK BACK

On Sept. 16, 1929, USC Law helped pioneer the notion that a public interest clinic could enrich legal education by giving students hands-on experience. What began as a six-week summer course in the delivery of legal services to the poor became the Southern California Legal Aid Clinic Association at USC. The clinic operated just like a law firm, where students received training to open and resolve cases that tackled a variety of issues including torts, contracts and domestic relations. By the time the clinic became the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) in 1937, USC Law students and faculty had assisted more than 19,000 clients representing dozens of countries.



Do the math

The 2007-08 academic calendar was another record-setting year for public service at USC Law. Here are the numbers:

3,900 pro bono hours logged by students

41 students honored for 35 hours or more of public interest work

25 PILF summer grants awarded

30 community organizations that benefited from the work of PILF clinic participants

9 students honored for donating 100 hours or more of community service

334.5 service hours donated by third-year student Kevin Hermansen

10 student organizations honored for donating 100 hours or more of community service

1,211 service hours donated by members of Legal Aid Alternative Breaks

Thirty years later, USC housed what would become California's oldest and largest legal services support center: the Western Center on Law and Poverty. The program, which opened its doors in 1967 inside the old law school building, would later outgrow its original home but not its USC connections, as faculty, alumni and students have served as attorneys, executive directors, clerks and board members — all working to seek law reform, support legal services programs and represent organizations of the poor.

"We clearly have a long tradition of public service," says Bice, who served as dean of the law school from 1980 to 2000. "From the beginning, USC's culture has encouraged service learning. Countless law students volunteered through the Legal Aid Foundation and the Western Center."

Over time the tradition flourished, as an increasing percentage of USC Law students sought public service opportunities. Then in 1987, two such students approached Bice with a proposal: USC Law should establish a loan forgiveness mechanism for graduates pursuing careers in public service *and* a grant program that would allow students to work during the summer for public interest law agencies, which generally do not have the financial resources to compensate their interns. Bice agreed to explore the first suggestion and soon after launched the Loan Repayment Assistance Program. As for the latter, "He told us, 'I think that's a good idea. Why don't you do it?'" says Lash, who developed the proposal with Stanley Glickman '87. "We realized very quickly that his response was the right answer. And that was it. We said yes to the challenge."

Lash and Glickman met with the Student Bar Association, which unanimously passed a resolution to help fund the grants by adding a voluntary \$10 assessment on law student fee bills. When the late Sydney M. Irmes '55 and his wife, Audrey, realized that students were taxing themselves to create public interest jobs, the couple decided to provide matching funds.



BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

Although the founders had secured funding, they had yet to gauge student interest in the fledgling grant program.

“We sent out flyers, inviting USC Law students to meet if they were interested in helping the homeless and protecting immigrants,” Lash recalls. “I didn’t know what to expect, but I didn’t think we’d fill a classroom.”

By the following year, three students — Jeffrey Hayden ’89, Patricia Freeman ’90 and Mead — had formalized a board, and the

USC Public Interest Law Foundation awarded its first batch of grants.

“There are so many people in law school looking for ways to make it meaningful,” says Freeman, who served as the first PILF president. “If you give them the opportunity, they’ll grab it and run with it. That’s what happened with PILF.”

Eight students in 1988 were selected to spend their summer working for a variety of agencies, including Sung-Yup Chang ’90 who provided family law and immigration legal services through the Asian

PILF pathfinder leaves a legacy

Public service is Lisa Mead’s lifeblood.

While a student at USC Law, the former social worker co-founded USC’s Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) and received a Shattuck Award and the Miller-Johnson Equal Justice Prize for her commitment to social justice. After graduating in 1989, she became directing attorney and law fellow of the Homeless Assistance Project of Public Counsel.

In 1993, Mead returned to USC Law, where she guided thousands of students as director and assistant dean of career services, associate dean of student services and, most recently, as head of the Office of Public Service (OPS). Last fall, after 15 years with USC, Mead bid farewell to the law school community during PILF’s 20th anniversary event.

“My fondest and most meaningful memories of my time at USC Law are the many students that I have been blessed to work alongside over these many years,” Mead said. “You are the ones who so effectively demonstrate the importance of service.”

In a tribute to Mead’s legacy, Malissa Barnwell-Scott, interim director of OPS, credited Mead with fostering a student-centered perspective at USC Law. Mead introduced welcome breakfasts, finals snacks, the annual orientation service project for first-year students, and the 100-hour service competition among student organizations.

Mead also helped students establish Legal Aid Alternative Breaks (LAAB), through which members provide volunteer service during winter recess and spring break. For the past four years, LAAB members have traveled from California’s Coachella Valley to Biloxi, Miss., lending legal and other assistance to vulnerable communities.

“No one doubts leaders are created in law school, but Lisa asks the question, ‘What types of leaders are we creating?’” said Barnwell-Scott, who worked closely with Mead to launch and operate OPS.

Greg Pleasants JD/MSW ’07 added: “Lisa Mead has been the primary enabling factor for those of us who wanted to go into public service.”

— Rizza Barnes



Lisa Mead '89 with husband James Bianco '87 and their sons

Pacific American Legal Center; Mona Patel-Sikora '90, who represented elderly clients in such matters as landlord/tenant disputes and government benefits through Bet Tzedek Legal Services; and Nancy Cervantes '89, who worked on community education of factory workers as part of LAFLA's Immigration Rights Project.

"We had no idea there was so much interest out there," says Hayden, now a private practitioner who takes on court-appointed work and pro bono cases. "The sheer number of people who applied

year. Now PILF has many traditions that we continue to build on in order to strengthen the organization and expand service opportunities, thanks to the continued passion and participation of students, and tremendous support from the school."

Dean Robert K. Rasmussen calls PILF a central part of USC Law, saying: "It reminds us on a daily basis that we have an obligation to the greater community. Without PILF, we wouldn't be the law school that we are today."

"It reminds us on a daily basis that we have an obligation to the greater community. Without PILF, we wouldn't be the law school that we are today."

for grants — knowing that the PILF grant would be significantly less than what they would earn at a firm — was a surprise. These are people who had alternatives. They could have gone to work anywhere, they had options, but they wanted to serve the under-represented.

"When I saw the number of applications we received and the grants we were able to provide that first year, I knew PILF was going to survive. And really, it's taken on a life that I would not have envisioned. I'm proud of the people who succeeded us, who took the organization and grew it."

Current PILF president and second-year student Laura Riley echoes Hayden's sentiment. "The founders did a tremendous job setting the groundwork," she says. "And it seems like each new board challenged itself to take PILF to the next level year after

Mead, who has met with PILF board members from other schools across the country, says the level of support available at USC is highly unusual.

"Other law schools are fighting the administration for resources, whereas we have several people in the administration to approach for help," Mead says. "Scott Bice was the leader of that mentality. USC's PILF is integrated into the institution. That's why each year, the board has been able to make significant strides. And that's why our student officers end up playing the role of advisor to their counterparts at other schools."

STEADFAST SUPPORT

What began with eight summer grants and three pro bono clinics now is considered one of the oldest and most active public interest student



groups in the nation, having awarded hundreds of grants and routinely sponsoring dozens of pro bono clinics throughout the school year.

And as the organization grew, new funding strategies were introduced. The annual PILF auction, which in recent years has raised as much as \$50,000 in one night through ticket sales, auction bids and cash donations — has become a hallmark event at USC Law. Law firms, such as Sidley Austin and McDermott Will & Emery, have sponsored summer grants. And, ever dedicated to advancing public interest work, the Sydney and Audrey Irmas Charitable Foundation continues to provide generous support to not only students but also alumni.

In 1989, the Irmases established the USC Law Public Interest Endowment, which funds the prestigious yearlong post-graduate Irmas Fellowship for alumni working at public interest agencies. To date, 20 Irmas Fellows have been named. Thirteen remained in public service for several years beyond their fellowship, and nine continue to work in public service today.

According to Mrs. Irmas: “That somebody is willing to go into situations that are tough — like counseling women in prison or helping foster kids get their feet on the ground — for not a very large sum of money, is just amazing to me. It’s rewarding to be a part of that.”

For Lash, who credits Mrs. Irmas for inspiring her to continue walking on the path of public service work, the most exceptional part of PILF is its ability to connect so many people.

“The support from students, faculty, staff, alumni and host organizations, all knitted together, has explained PILF’s extraordinary success,” Lash says. “Such a broad community of support ensures that PILF and public service are at the core of legal education at USC.”

Bice agrees.

“Student organizations come and go, but PILF is a steady, steady presence,” he told the crowd gathered last November at PILF’s 20th anniversary celebration. “Year after year, the growth in the money it has raised and the internships it has provided — there’s just nothing like it at the law school. Tonight is a salute not only to the founders but to all of the students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends who support PILF. The future is very, very bright.”

Pages 14-15: Images from past PILF auctions

Page 16 left: Audrey Irmas (center) with Irmas Fellows Matthew Strugar ’04, Maria Hall ’03, Laura Fry ’92, Veronica Hahni ’94, Jennifer Summerville ’95 and Connie Huang ’02

Page 16 right: 1994 PILF auction attendees



Alyson Parker '09 and Laura Riley '10

USC | LAW v. UCLA LAW

USC and UCLA launch pro bono battle

The longstanding rivalry between UCLA and USC has moved off the playing fields and into the Los Angeles community. This spring semester, USC and UCLA law students are competing for pro bono hours in the Cross-Town Challenge. The competition is the brainchild of Alyson Parker, a third-year student and president of USC Law’s Student Bar Association.

“We’re looking to promote pro bono work within the legal profession as well as improve our surrounding communities,” says Parker. “If we engage students in pro bono work now, we hope they will be inspired to continue this tradition after they graduate.”

Projects include researching case law at the Wage Justice Center, where lawyers work to recover unpaid wages for victims of unscrupulous employers; working with Reading to Kids, a local organization dedicated to inspiring underserved children with a love of reading; and working at the M.E.V. Free Legal Clinic to provide legal consultations for individuals regardless of ability to pay.

To encourage participation among extremely busy law students, the competition includes projects that require only a half-day commitment. The law school with the higher percentage of student participation will be deemed the winner.

“The ABA recommends attorneys perform 50 hours of pro bono work annually,” says second-year student Laura Riley, USC’s Public Interest Law Foundation president. “I think the challenge will encourage students in all areas of law to see pro bono work as part of their professional development and enjoy being involved in the community at the same time.”

— Maria Iacobo

Two USC Law alumni
find calling in politics

Michael Schroeder '82

Domestic AFFAIRS

By Gilien Silsby

The 2008 presidential election season was one of the most exciting in recent history, and two USC Law graduates played key roles, albeit on different ends of the political spectrum.

Michael Schroeder '82 served as the California political director of Mitt Romney's bid for the Republican nomination, while Alan Hoffman '91 was chief of staff and campaign adviser to Joe Biden in his competition for the Democratic nomination.

Although neither candidate secured his party's nomination, Hoffman and Schroeder both say the campaigns were rewarding adventures.

"I love working on campaigns — the polling, the focus groups, the strategy and the rallies," Schroeder says. "You work really hard for a long time, and one day you win or lose. But I wouldn't trade it for anything."

For Hoffman, the road to a political career was unplanned. A few years after law school, he pursued a job at the Department of Justice that required U.S. Senate confirmation. He went to Biden's office for help; the senator in turn asked Hoffman to work for him.

After serving twice — from 1998 to 2003 and again from 2006 to 2008 — as chief of staff to Sen. Biden, Hoffman thought he had left politics for good when Biden's campaign for president ended. The Philadelphia native took a job as senior vice president for external relations for the University of California system, settling into academic life in Northern California.

In a farewell on the Senate floor, Biden praised Hoffman by saying: "I have benefited enormously from Alan's excellent sensibilities. He has sharp political sense, a keen sense of timing, a sense of what makes people tick and a sense of humor."

But the week after Hoffman started his new job at the UC system, Sen. Biden was tapped as vice president on Barack Obama's ticket.

utmost respect and admiration for him. There are huge problems out there for which we are trying to find solutions."

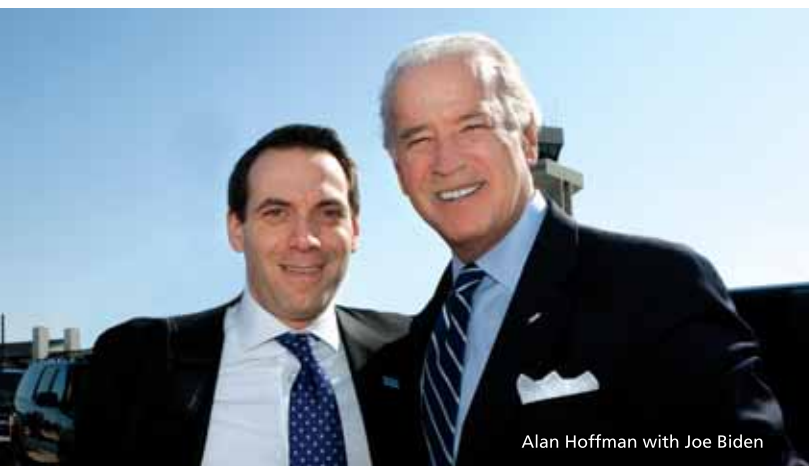
Based in Orange County, Schroeder was asked to join Mitt Romney's campaign in 2006. (In fact, many of the 2008 Republican presidential candidates, including Mike Huckabee and Rudy Giuliani, contacted Schroeder to seek his support.) Schroeder, who has worked on countless campaigns for the Republican Party, including serving as California co-chair for Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush, says he admired Romney for his consensus building, independence and economic positions.

"For me it wasn't a tough decision," Schroeder says. "Mitt Romney seemed to be the candidate who was the strongest on spending and taxes, and in Massachusetts, he really brought Democrats and Republicans together."

Schroeder has maintained a law practice while simultaneously serving on multiple campaigns. After graduating from USC Law, he



Alan Hoffman '91



Alan Hoffman with Joe Biden



Michael Schroeder and his wife, Susan, with Mitt Romney

Hoffman got a call from Biden asking him to join his team once again, as chief operating officer.

In December came the big prize: Hoffman was named deputy chief of staff to the vice president.

"I was incredibly honored," Hoffman says. "You can't say no to something like this. I've known Joe Biden for 15 years and have the

was appointed by Gov. George Deukmejian to the Governmental Efficiency Team and charged with reviewing California's health care budget for fraud and waste.

Currently Schroeder is serving as the political director for Steve Poizner's campaign for California governor.

Supreme Court visit adds dimension
to innovative writing course



Insider's *view*

By Gilien Silsby

When *Pleasant Grove City v. Summum* was argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in November, three USC Law students and their professor watched and listened in the audience, critiquing nearly every move made by the opposing sides.

Above, from left: Anna Faircloth '10, Ryan McMonagle '09, Grace Tse '10 and Paul Watford

They couldn't help but wonder why the defense attorney answered questions in a certain way. And they cringed when the assistant to the solicitor general tripped over his arguments.

The students knew the case well. For months, they had studied nearly every angle and aspect of *Pleasant Grove City v. Summum* in USC Law's groundbreaking course, Judicial Opinion Writing.

"When the attorneys faltered, I found myself wishing that I could somehow signal the answer or otherwise guide them back on track," says second-year student Grace Tse, who along with third-year student Ryan McMonagle won the lottery for the all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Second-year student Anna Faircloth paid her own way.

"It's amazing that as a student, I felt like I had better arguments and answers than attorneys before the Supreme Court, but it is a testament to how deeply we studied the case for our Judicial Opinion Writing class," Tse adds.

The students and their professor, Paul Watford, heard the oral arguments and met with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, for whom Watford clerked in 1995.

"The value of seeing and hearing the arguments was substantial," McMonagle says. "You just cannot pick up on much of the subtext of what the justices are saying by reading a transcript; you really need to be there."

Faircloth agrees. "For three months we read the briefs for the case, researched and mined the depths of the background cases, and pondered the issues involved," she says. "Attending oral argument added an entirely new dimension. Listening to the justices' questions was exhilarating: It forced my mind to wrestle with the issues, confront them in new ways, and think about how I would have fielded the questions on my feet."

When the students described their Judicial Opinion Writing class to Ginsburg's clerks — who hailed from Harvard, Yale and Columbia law schools — their reaction was one of amazement.

"They all said they wished they had this kind of class in law school," Faircloth notes. "There is so much writing, and it has to be done in a certain way. The clerks said they would have really benefitted from the practice this class gives."

Even though USC Law and all other law schools require legal writing courses, the classes do not specifically cover judicial writing.

Tse says the class and trip changed her mind about applying for a clerkship.

"Our Judicial Opinion Writing course — and especially this trip — convinced me to apply in the fall," she says. "I have learned so much from just this one course over the semester; I can only imagine how much I would learn doing this full-time for a year."



USC Law class sets new trend

For many law students, learning the art of judicial opinion writing doesn't take place in school but on the job, while working as a law clerk.

At times, it can seem like baptism by fire. The writing is complicated, requiring a delicate balance between objectivity and advocacy. And the stakes are tremendous.

To help ease the transition from law school to the courthouse for students who plan to pursue clerkships or externships, USC Law became the first Top 20 law school to offer Judicial Opinion Writing, an intensive course that focuses on a single U.S. Supreme Court case each semester.

Introduced in 2007, the class teaches students to write in formats and styles specific to clerking. Bench briefs and drafts of judicial opinions are key components of the three-unit class, which is limited to 12 students. USC Law tapped Paul Watford — who clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in 1995 and now serves as litigation partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson in Los Angeles — to teach the class.

"This was hands-down my favorite course at USC Law," says third-year student Ryan McMonagle. "This is the only class I have taken in law school in which I have been assigned the task of examining a large body of law and not only determining what the law *is* but what it *should be*."

Jean Rosenbluth '93, director of legal writing and advocacy and clinical associate professor of law, created the course with Watford. She says her goal was to design a class that "gives students the skills and opportunity to practice working for a judge before they're thrown into a real-life situation." Using briefs and oral argument transcripts, students must draft a majority opinion and, at the end of the semester, a dissenting opinion.

Before introducing Judicial Opinion Writing at USC Law, Rosenbluth conducted an informal survey of law schools and found that none in the Top 20, and only about a dozen overall, offered the class. Since she started the class, Duke Law has introduced a similar course; Cornell University Law School is considering one as well.

"This is a real trend," Rosenbluth says. "I think that in another few years, most of the top law schools will offer a course of this kind."

— Gilien Silsby

Remembering CHARLIE

More than 600 faculty, alumni, students, staff, family and friends gathered at USC Town and Gown Nov. 13 for "Remembering Charlie: A Champagne Reception and Tribute to Honor the Late Charles H. Whitebread." The George T. and Harriet E. Pfleger Chair in Law, who taught his final USC Law class last spring, died Sept. 16 at age 65. He is survived by his long-term partner John T. Golden and their good friend Michael S. Kelly. Six speakers — his brother, Joe Whitebread, colleagues and longtime friends Michael Graetz, Erwin Chemerinsky, Susan Estrich and Jim Curtis '82, and former student Richard Chacon '99 — shared their remembrances, full of poignancy and humor. The program featured Whitebread's favorite music, including G.F. Handel and George Gershwin, performed by Angelica Strings and renowned jazz singer Michele Weir. It concluded with a video medley of Whitebread's most memorable moments as a BAR/BRI lecturer. "It is a fitting tribute to Charlie that his memorial service was filled with love and fond memories," says USC Law Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. To access videos and additional photos and stories, visit <http://law.usc.edu/faculty/whitebread.cfm>.

"Charlie was larger than life, and I base that on three things: Charlie was the most fun person I've ever known. Charlie was the most brilliant person I've ever known. And Charlie was the most generous person I've ever known."

— Richard Chacon '99



"He used to tell me, 'Jimmy, you've got to enjoy the full rich tapestry of life,' and Charlie certainly did. From restaurants to classical music, from museums to worldwide travel, from sports events to rock 'n' roll music, Charlie's sense of adventure and fun-seeking was a marvel."

— USC Law Adjunct Professor Jim Curtis '82



"His joy came from holding up a mirror that made you better, smarter and more successful than you thought yourself; that showed you as he saw you, full of special talent and unlimited potential. The next time you look in the mirror, the next time you are tempted to think of yourself as anything less than the greatest or the best, to question whether you are enough, think about what Charlie would say about you, if he had the chance. If we can carry in ourselves the faith that Charlie had in us, the man we loved so will never really be gone."

— USC Law Professor Susan Estrich



"Three years after I had given [handmade Italian silk bow-ties] to Charlie for Christmas, I was surprised to open my gift and see that I had gotten them back. To this day, I don't know whether he had forgotten from whence they came, or whether he was sending me a rather not-too-subtle message about my taste in bow-ties."

— Yale Law School Professor Michael Graetz



"He had an appreciation and a joie de vivre that I don't think I've seen in a whole lot of people. With Charlie, even the most mundane thing could be fun. There are some people who look at the glass as half full; there are some people who look at the glass as half empty. Charlie's view of the world was, 'That glass is almost overflowing.'"

— Joe Whitebread



"We all hope to be the very best at what we do. But Charlie was the very best. There's no classroom teacher at any university better than Charlie. BAR/BRI never had and never will have a better lecturer than Charlie Whitebread. Judges, lawyers' groups will never have a better speaker. Charlie taught the largest possible public, and he did it better than anyone. He taught the law, and more importantly, life, better than anyone."

— UC Irvine School of Law
Dean Erwin Chemerinsky



PHOTO LEGEND

- 1 Mike Sims, Erwin Chemerinsky, Susan Estrich, George Lefcoe, Joe Whitebread, Michael Graetz, Jim Curtis and Richard Chacon
- 2 Bettye Baker, Joe and Monica Whitebread, and Kevin Breen
- 3 Peter Steinwachs, Charlie Whitebread and Shiri Klima
- 4 Alyson Parker and Charlie Whitebread
- 5 Anne Tower, Susan Estrich, Carole Zdobysz and Tom Tower
- 6 Erwin Chemerinsky, Robert Rasmussen and Katie Waitman
- 7 Michael Kelly, George Lefcoe and John Golden

Faculty

*Footnotes

(a selection of recent faculty activities)



Rebecca Brown, Newton Professor of Constitutional Law, participated as a justice in the American Constitution Society's Supreme Court Moot. She helped organize the first USC Law Supreme Court Preview and served as one of its panelists. She

presented a paper, "Deep and Wide: Justice Marshall's Contributions to Constitutional Law," as part of a symposium at Howard University recognizing Justice Thurgood Marshall's 100th birthday.



Kim Buchanan, assistant professor of law, presented "The Heterosexual Defense: Male-Male Sexual Harassment" at the Law and Society Association annual conference in Montreal. She discussed her work in progress, "The Sex Discount: Equality,

Liberty and Illicit Sex," on a panel regarding constitutional law and reproductive rights at Yale Law School.



Mary Dudziak, Judge Edward J. and Ruey L. Guirado Professor of Law, History and Political Science, spoke about her book, *Exporting American Dreams: Thurgood Marshall's African Journey*, at Vanderbilt University Law School and Wesleyan

University. Last fall she was a distinguished visitor at the University of Maryland School of Law, teaching a course on Thurgood Marshall and Civil Rights History. She discussed her paper, "To the Edges of the Law': The Politics of Law in the Bush Administration," at the Constitutional Law & Theory workshop at Vanderbilt and at a faculty workshop at Maryland, where she gave the Soper Lecture on *Exporting American Dreams*. Currently she is an affiliated scholar at the Warren Center for American History at Harvard and is working on a new book, *How War Made America: A Twentieth Century History*.



Elizabeth Garrett, Sydney M. Irmas Professor of Public Interest Law, Legal Ethics, Political Science, and Policy, Planning, and Development, presented "New Voices in Politics: Justice Marshall's Jurisprudence on Law and Politics" at a Howard University

Law School conference recognizing Justice Thurgood Marshall's 100th birthday. She presented "Direct Democracy and Public Choice" at the Searle Law and Political Economy Colloquium at Northwestern Law School. She also moderated the USC Law Supreme Court Preview and has been selected as a member of the Pacific Council on International Policy.



Gillian Hadfield, Richard L. and Antoinette S. Kirtland Professor of Law and Professor of Economics, last summer co-hosted a conference on deregulation and the law with Oxford University. She also presented her paper "Framing the Choice between Cash and the

Courthouse: Experiences with the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund" to the Department of Policy and Social Work at Oxford. While in Europe, she spoke about her research as one of the 17 core scholars of the Comparative Law and Economics Forum (CLEF) at their 15th Annual Meeting in Madrid, Spain. Last fall she presented the paper "The Quality of Law: Judicial Incentives, Legal Human Capital and the Evolution of Law" in Paris at the Dynamics of Institution in Perspectives: Alternatives Conceptions and Future Challenges Conference. She also presented her paper "The Role of International Law Firms and Multijural Human Capital in the Harmonization of Legal Regimes" at Columbia Law School, where she is a visiting faculty member. She discussed her paper "Democracy, Courts and the Information Order" at a faculty workshop at Cardozo Law School in New York and at the American Sociological Association's annual meeting in Boston, alongside her co-author, Dan Ryan.



Daniel Klerman, Charles L. and Ramona I. Hilliard Professor of Law and History, last fall presented his paper "Legal Origin and Economic Growth" at the University of Michigan Law School Law & Economics Workshop and at the UCLA Law & Economics Workshop. His

paper, "The Emergence of English Commercial Law: Analysis Inspired by the Ottoman Experience," made SSRN's top 10 download list for law & economics law school research papers. Klerman was elected to the American Law Institute and was chosen to be co-president of the Society for Empirical Legal Studies, which publishes the *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies* and runs the annual Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, to be held at USC in November 2009. His review of Penny Tucker, *Law Courts and Lawyers in the City of London, 1300-1550*, was published in *Law & History Review*, Vol. 26, No.3 (2008).



Thomas D. Lyon, Judge Edward J. and Ruey L. Guirado Chair in Law and Psychology, recently published research papers on means of increasing child witnesses' honesty and accuracy in *Child Development*, *Child Abuse & Neglect* and *Law & Human Behavior*.

He presented a number of talks last fall, including "Maximizing Child Witness Productivity Through Research-Based Interviewing Techniques" at the national colloquium of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children in Phoenix and "Overview of Child Witnesses: Disclosure, Memory, Competency, and Suggestibility" at the National Children's Bench Book Project: A Symposium on Improving Judicial Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, in College Park, Md. He also provided child interview training to the Children's Services Division of the Los Angeles County Counsel's office and to the Los Angeles County Children's Law Center.



Clare Pastore, associate professor of the practice of law, was named co-chair of the newly created Right to Counsel Task Force of the California Commission on Access to Justice. She gave the keynote address, "Poverty Literacy," at the Western Center on Law and Poverty's Advisory Board Retreat last fall.



Jean Rosenbluth '93, director of legal writing and advocacy and clinical associate professor of law, spoke on Judicial Opinion Writing at the Legal Skills Conference at Bacesehir University in Istanbul, Turkey. She moderated a Federal Bar Association panel on Appellate Practice Tips at the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Pasadena, Calif.



James Spindler, associate professor of law and business, presented "Vicarious Liability for Securities Fraud" at the Kauffman Summer Legal Institute in Dana Point, Calif., and his paper "IPO Disclosure and Underpricing" at the USC Faculty Workshop last fall. He also presented "Vicarious Liability for Bad Corporate Governance: Are We Wrong About Rule 10b-5?" at the Canadian Law and Economics Association and at Vanderbilt, Cornell and Stanford law schools.



Nomi Stolzenberg, Nathan and Lilly Shapell Chair in Law, participated in a roundtable discussion at the Philoctetes Center in New York on the topic of "The Presumption of Rationality: Psychological Challenges to Legal Certainty." Her 2006 talk — "What Does Kiryas Joel Tell Us About Liberalism in America?" — presented with UCLA history professor David Myers, was published by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in the 2008 issue of *The Chronicle*. In August, she and Myers led a daylong graduate seminar at Princeton University on Jewish political theory.



Nina Walton, assistant professor of law, won the Jan Whitwell Prize for her presentation of the paper "Advice, Information and the Reputation of CEOs" at the 2008 Australasian Meetings of the Econometrics Society in Wellington, New Zealand. Last fall she was appointed and confirmed as a commissioner of the Industrial Development Authority of the City of Los Angeles. She presented her paper "The Price of Admission: Who gets into private school and how much do they pay?" at the USC economics department's Theory Seminar and participated in a discussion of the paper "Do Male Analysts Discriminate Against Female CEOs" at the Conference on Empirical Studies at Cornell University.



PRAISES FOR LORD

Senior librarian leaves USC Law after 18 years

The law school community last fall celebrated Hazel Lord's USC career in a farewell reception that thanked her for her service and accomplishments.

More than 20,000 faculty requests for books and articles were sent to Lord in her 18 years at USC Law. In fact, Lord and her department managed the delivery of more than 16,000 documents and about 12,000 inter-library loan requests.

Lord joined the law school in 1990 (after stints in USC's dental, science and undergraduate libraries) as head of the Access Services Department, where she remained with the goal to expeditiously deliver information, however obscure and from whatever source, to faculty and students.

"I have found working in the law school a very intellectually stimulating and professionally satisfying experience," Lord said. "For this I need to thank not only our library director, Albert Brecht, but also the four deans under whom I have worked: Scott Bice, Matt Spitzer, Ed McCaffery and Bob Rasmussen. They have made this a very special place, not only for the quality of the research and teaching but also for the atmosphere of caring and friendship, which I have really come to appreciate over the years."

Among Lord's many accomplishments was the November 2007 launch of her wiki, English Medieval Legal Documents A.D. 600–A.D. 1535: A Compilation of Published Sources. The wiki, which recorded more than 400,000 hits during its inaugural year, was created at the suggestion of Daniel Klerman, USC Law professor and English legal history scholar. Lord said she plans to maintain the wiki — a collaborative website that invites users to contribute material — during retirement.

— Maria Iacobo



Professor Dan Simon examines the psychology behind wrongful convictions

Rewriting *the police procedural*

Garbage in. Garbage out.

That's one way Dan Simon, USC Law professor of law and psychology, uses to describe how flawed criminal investigations lead to questionable jury verdicts.

From the collection of forensic evidence to the construction of a police lineup, the criminal investigation remains largely obscure to the prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges and jurors who rely on its results to determine guilt or innocence, Simon says.

"The criminal justice system relies on many people who must come together in an optimal way for the system to produce good, reliable, accurate verdicts," he says. "That does not always happen."

When the system fails, the reason oftentimes has to do with psychological phenomena, according to Simon.

"We usually don't hear about the mistakes that are made," he says. "When we do, it's only because an inmate was lucky enough to have many pieces fall into place to have the conviction overturned."

Simon got interested in the intersection between law and psychology while working toward his S.J.D., when it became apparent to him that the psychological factors behind judging were more pervasive and profound than he had expected.

To address the policy issues behind the problems, Simon is seeking to shift the focus of attention in legal discourse from the courtroom to the police station. Mistakes that occur in the investigatory phase, explains Simon, are difficult to detect and correct at the adjudicatory phase.

"The pervasive intuition in legal academia is off the mark," Simon says. "Conducting good procedures in the first place, such as in eyewitness identification, interviewing of witnesses, interrogation of suspects

and collection of forensic evidence — that's where we have to prevent the mistakes. If we wait until the trial, we're usually too late."

Simon cites a number of discredited forensic technologies that were once mainstays of the courtroom: bite-mark testimony, hand-writing and tire-mark analysis, and hair- and soil-matching. Because the flaws in these types of evidence have been exposed, he says he is optimistic about improvements in the treatment of forensic evidence.

"I'm more concerned about correcting the errors of human testimony," he says. "Human testimony tends to be more malleable."

A book Simon is completing for Harvard University Press addresses the relationship of law and psychology to the criminal justice process. In it, he surveys research of recent decades, including his own experiments, and lays out specific policy recommendations for judges, politicians and others involved in the criminal justice system. Recommendations cover everything from how to phrase a question to what kind of evidence should be shown in court.

"I'm a strong advocate for increasing the transparency of the police investigation by taping as much as possible of the investigatory process, so jurors can see what witnesses actually said soon after the event, before they took sides or felt committed to either party," he says.

Simon notes the revelation in recent years of wrongful convictions has changed politicians' and the public's perception of the criminal justice system.

"This is the right time for this research," he says. "Now that the unwarranted confidence in the precision of the criminal justice system has cracked, we can make some headway in trying to understand why errors occur."

— Darren Schenck

RACE redefined

USC Law's Ariela Gross discusses her new book about racial identity trials

USC Law Professor Ariela J. Gross spent years unearthing the legal history of racial identity.

In her new book, *What Blood Won't Tell: A History of Race on Trial in America* (Harvard University Press, 2008), Gross recounts stories of racial identity trials in American courts — cases that determined a person's "race" as well as his or her rights and privileges.

"Today, racial identity trials may seem bizarre, but they were common occurrences in local American courts from the early republic well into the 20th century," says Gross, the John B. and Alice R. Sharp Professor of Law and History.

In the following Q&A, Gross discusses her book, the history of racism, and the state of race relations in America.



What can we learn from the racial identity trials?

They show the power and limits of individual action in the history of race and racism. Some individuals could, through their efforts to "pass" as white, for example, win freedom, convince others of a new identity, and shape narratives that were used in the struggle for abolition. At the same time, the very act of proving whiteness to win citizenship or freedom reinforced the idea that only whites were worthy of citizenship or freedom.

Why draw racial lines after slavery? After slavery, Southerners redoubled their efforts to maintain white supremacy through policing the color line. Northerners and Westerners, too, sought to exclude African-Americans and other people of color

from public life, and even expel them from towns and cities. Across the country, strict bans on interracial marriage led to sensational trials of racial identity. Why so much effort to determine racial boundaries? To uphold white privilege: enslave blacks, appropriate American Indian lands, exclude immigrants from citizenship.

Do courts still litigate racial identity? Courts today rarely litigate racial identity explicitly. But courts and other legal institutions continue to shape narratives about the meaning of racial identity and its connections to citizenship. The equation of whiteness with citizenship is still with us today in the figure of the Latino or Muslim "alien" and the African-American felon, put outside America's civic boundaries. The trials that established this equation no longer take place today, but their legacy is ingrained in our thought, our legal system, our cultural practice and our racial common sense. We continue to reproduce



racial hierarchy through seemingly neutral practices that perpetuate established patterns of power and privilege. The changing nature of racism has made it harder, not easier, to undo racial hierarchy.

Should we simply stop classifying by race? Some advocates of colorblindness believe that if we refuse to recognize race, it will automatically cease being an informal prerequisite to the enjoyment of full civic participation. Others are less clear about what they think the result will be. Some conservatives suggest that it's acceptable if inequality remains so long as that inequality is based on culture and performance rather than blood. I think we need to be very suspicious of this approach. We need to see race in order to undo the harms it has done.

What is the state of race relations today? Most blacks and whites live separately, are extremely unlikely to marry one another (although they both may marry Asian-Americans or Latinos), and attend different schools. The income and wealth gap between blacks and whites is as great as ever. Yet there have been surprising changes, too, most notably the election of President Barack Obama. It shows that there is great potential for individuals and communities to make a difference, even to shape the law and create new identities — but only if we understand and take account of our history.

— Gilien Silsby



ON, and OFF, the road

Alan Kang '04 follows entrepreneurial spirit into the bicycle business

As an associate with Berger Kahn in Irvine, Calif., Alan Kang '04 worked diligently, billed many hours and earned the respect of his colleagues. After a year, he joined a smaller firm, where he could learn more about running a company. Then he began his own practice.

Still restive, Kang finally heeded the call of his inner entrepreneur and today runs a company that manufactures award-winning racing bikes.

"Working at a small firm with some fellow USC Law alumni was great experience for learning how to run a business," he says. "But as an associate, I never really got to use my entrepreneurial skills."

That opportunity came when Kang became friends with a client whose bicycle manufacturing company was in the midst of a breach of contract suit. An avid biker, Kang was alarmed to see how a typical legal problem could cause devastating financial problems for a small company.

"The company's problems required me to take a more active role in the business, and eventually I was helping raise money and even run the company," he says. "In my first year, we had sales growth of more than 50 percent."

Today, Kang is CEO and general counsel of CHUMBA Racing, where in addition to handling legal matters, he oversees production, personnel, and sales and marketing.

"I can build a bike from scratch," says Kang. "CHUMBA was so small that I had to put my hand in every area of the business, including sales, finance, mass production, physical operations, research and development, warehousing, shipping and inventory."

Kang suspects that his drive to be an entrepreneur is in the blood.

"My father was a pretty successful businessman," he says. "He came over as an immigrant from South Korea and, starting with nothing except

some leather jackets in downtown L.A., built a \$40 million-a-year company. I always wanted to be something like him — have an adventure, take risks."

David Ezra '90, a partner with Berger Kahn, says he saw right away that Kang was entrepreneurial.

"He was destined for bigger things," says Ezra. "One time he had helped me with a very complicated case, and we achieved the best possible result for the client. It was a great victory and a real up for me, but Alan took no time to savor the victory — he was immediately focused on other things."

In addition to the satisfaction of running his own company, Kang has gained a perspective on business most attorneys don't have. Although he recognizes that the rule of law helps facilitate business, he also has witnessed the power of litigation to destroy.

"I've seen large companies sue small companies just to put them out of business and use their technology," notes Kang, who says he constantly draws on his USC Law education as he steers his company through litigious waters. "In my view, small companies are providers of goods and services to society, and litigation is a massive tax."

Despite the challenges of running a small company, Kang heartily recommends the entrepreneur's path.

"If you're not passionate about what you're doing, then find what your passion is," he says. "Whether you fail or succeed, just try it. Especially if you have an education from USC Law — it's a great advantage."

— Darren Schenck

Hail to the chief

Fred Ryan '80 makes breakthroughs in politics and communications

When Fred Ryan '80 accepted a job offer from President Ronald Reagan, he was just 26 years old, one of the youngest staffers to hold a senior position in the White House.

After signing on for a one-year stint as special assistant to the president, his service lasted long after Reagan's two terms, continuing in California where Ryan — now president and chief operating officer

In 1995, Ryan — who received his undergraduate degree in communications and political science from USC — returned to Washington, D.C., to run Allbritton Communications, which owns and operates television stations, websites, newspapers and a cable news channel.

"I've always had an interest in communications," Ryan says. "I dealt a lot with the media in the White House, and it's not so different



Fred Ryan '80 with Ronald Reagan

of Allbritton Communications Company and president and chief executive officer of the overnight success *Politico* — helped establish the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Library.

In all, Ryan worked for Reagan for more than 15 years and remained a cherished friend after his tenure as key adviser. He remains close to Mrs. Nancy Reagan and handles a variety of matters for her.

"Working for Ronald Reagan is one of the greatest honors of my career and life," says Ryan, who was asked to be an honorary pallbearer at Reagan's funeral. "I met him before he ran for president — I was very impressed and volunteered on his campaign. After he won, he offered me a job, but he made it clear that he wasn't looking for people to join his staff who were long-time bureaucrats. He was reaching out to people like me in the private sector. Over the years, he kept increasing my portfolio of responsibility."

Recalling his time in the White House, Ryan remembers the excitement of taking part in Reagan's Private Sector Initiative, working with businesses and governments around the world to promote public/private partnerships. In 1988, Ryan became Reagan's chief of staff, overseeing the move to California and the opening of the Reagan Library, and handling his speaking engagements and book contracts.

being on the other side. The same way a candidate is seeking to get a message out, we're seeking to build the ranks of readers of our newspaper and website, and trying to establish our brand."

Politico was established in 2007 and is delivered daily in print and online to staff on Capitol Hill and in the White House, as well as political organizations and lobbyists. The website politico.com has grown in popularity throughout the country, and stories often are mentioned on television news shows. The plan for the Obama administration is to provide 24-hour-a-day news coverage, with correspondents positioned in the White House and on Capitol Hill.

"*Politico* has vastly exceeded all of our projections," Ryan says. "Our goal from the inception has been to become the ESPN of politics. We are making great progress."

Just as in the news business, the pace was fast in the White House. "One thing I loved about working for President Reagan, it was never dull — not for one minute," he says. "Something exciting was always unfolding. The same goes for the news business. In the White House you work days and nights nonstop and the minute one project is over, without skipping a beat, you very quickly move onto the next thing."

— Gilien Silsby



Making his own way

After three successful ventures, Mark Chatow '93 looks for a new path

Mark Chatow graduated from USC Law in 1993. Sixteen years later, he sat for the California Bar Examination.

In the interim, Chatow launched and nurtured what would become a \$60-million company, purchased a well-known Los Angeles day spa, and helped develop a 700-condominium project in Las Vegas.

"When I graduated, I looked at it as, 'I've got a million chances to take the bar; I've got one chance to get my business off the ground,'" says Chatow, who started a consumer products company the summer after his first year at USC Law. "And the company ended up taking off."

Chatow's Roundhouse Products, which started with one item — a neoprene water bottle carrier — grew to fill a 100,000-square-foot warehouse and employ 200 people, and was generating \$60 million in revenues annually when it was sold nine years later. As principal and vice president of sales and marketing, Chatow got Roundhouse products distributed in such stores as Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Blockbuster and Costco.

After a year off, Chatow delved into a new business, purchasing the Massage Therapy Center day spa, named the best in L.A. by Citysearch and *Los Angeles Magazine*.

"I thought it was a great business model," he says. "The spa had been around for close to 14 years when I bought it, it had a great track record and was owned by a USC graduate. I also knew that I could put my own stamp on it, so I renovated it and rebranded it, and revenue has increased significantly."

He still owns the spa, which celebrated its 20th anniversary last year. But in 2006 Chatow decided he was ready for a new challenge and signed on as vice president of marketing with Gemstone Development in Las Vegas. Gemstone was starting on what would become an award-winning project called ManhattanWest, comprising 700 condos and commercial and office retail space.

"That was a lot of fun, to come into an industry I had never been in — we really started from scratch with that project," says Chatow, who spent the next two and a half years commuting weekly to Las Vegas from Orange County.

Chatow says his USC Law degree has helped in everything he has done in business, from contracts to employment, tax and housing issues.

"It's also a matter of having the frame of mind where, if an issue comes up, even if you don't know the law off the top of your head, you can understand it and decide if it's something you need to retain counsel for or if it's something you can handle on your own," he says.

After leaving Gemstone, he turned his attention to the February 2009 bar exam and may go into practice once he passes it. Wherever his career takes him next, Chatow hopes to share his success — something he and his wife, Kristina, have done since giving to a number of schools and programs at USC following the sale of Roundhouse Products.

"If you have success, you should give," Chatow says. "Give back to the places that led to it. I like the idea of encouraging other people to do the same thing, because I think it's so important."

— Lori Craig

CREATING Genius Jeans

Former litigator Catherine Hart '84 finds better fit in fashion industry

For more than a decade, Catherine Hart '84 enjoyed a successful career in litigation, first working at a Los Angeles firm and later as a solo practitioner in Beverly Hills. Then, after 12 years in Southern California, she followed her desire for a "lifestyle change," closing her practice, selling her house and car, and moving to New York City.

Since the New York Bar did not have reciprocity with the California Bar, Hart couldn't "waive in." Faced with an onerous process to get accepted to the New York Bar, Hart began thinking about work beyond the law.

"During my years in litigation, I worked with people who owned their own businesses," says Hart. "I thought they were more interesting because they were actually doing something. I thought it would be more satisfying to create and provide something and add it to the world."

Her business idea came out of her closet.

"I looked at all of my jeans and asked myself why I would spend \$200 on a pair when they weren't flattering. Blue jeans are such a huge market, but no one was making a blue jean that was slimming. I knew I was on to something when pattern and sample makers didn't want to work with me."

Financing the entire project herself, Hart worked for nearly two years designing patterns, finding the right fabric and refining washing techniques. She also trademarked the name "SkinnyJeans," registered the URL www.skinnyjeans.com and filed a design patent. Her jeans, she says, are designed to "trick the eye" by employing shading in key places and flattering seams and pocket placement. Fifty-two pieces make up each pair.

"These are classic-looking jeans," says Hart. "They won't go out of style. You can wear them with a \$5,000 jacket or a T-shirt and look great."

Launching her line — "hello! SkinnyJeans®" — in the summer of 2006, Hart had difficulty getting into trade shows; competitors often try to keep one another from the buyers' reach. After one show, Hart took her product to the Internet and soon met with providence.

Gap had started using images of Audrey Hepburn wearing her trademark "cigarette leg" jeans and sparked the craze for skinny jeans. Consumers using the Internet to search for "skinny jeans" found Hart's site.

Last year Hart received an e-mail from the editor of a major fashion magazine, telling her how much she loved her jeans, and



then trumpeted them in a feature story. Other magazines followed suit. In an article last summer, the *Los Angeles Times* tested five designer jeans touting figure-fixing abilities; Hart's product earned the highest rating.

"... Our thighs haven't looked that good since the days we practically lived on a treadmill," wrote the tester.

Hart has since enlarged her product line, which can be found in boutiques nationwide. Her online business has sent her jeans around the world.

"My bonus is when people write to me," says Hart, who has never paid for advertising. "I think the validation from someone who wears my jeans is a million times stronger than ads."

— Maria Iacobo

Love, honor, cherish

By David B. Cruz
Professor of Law

A new group of people celebrated June weddings in California following a decision by the state Supreme Court last May. The court held that same-sex couples had a fundamental right to marry under the California Constitution. Minutes after the decision became final at 5 p.m. on June 16, the first of an estimated 18,000 same-sex couples over the next four and a half months were married. But the joy of these occasions was tempered by a looming battle.

I'm referring, of course, to the fight over Proposition 8, an initiative designed to change the state constitution to deny same-sex couples the right to marry. Shortly after the Supreme Court's marriage decision, Prop. 8 qualified for the November ballot.

Because I've been researching and writing about marriage rights for same-sex couples, as well as the California Constitution, for some years, I thought it important to share my knowledge and expertise as widely as possible so that fewer people would cast votes based on ignorance or misunderstanding.

So I spent last summer and fall speaking out about Prop. 8, marriage equality and constitutionalism. I accepted every media request I could. And I coordinated an effort to provide speakers (frequently myself) to many of Los Angeles' neighborhood councils; most of those addressed passed resolutions against Prop. 8.

Prop. 8 trailed in the polls almost all summer long. Then the "Yes on 8" ads hit the airwaves, hard. They craftily changed the subject, away from equality and freedom to marry, to play upon baseless fears about children, people being sued for their personal "beliefs," and churches facing loss of their tax exemptions unless Prop. 8 passed. And, heartbreakingly, it did pass.

But that's not the end of the road for marriage equality in California. The very next day, several lawsuits were filed in the state Supreme Court, challenging the permissibility of Prop. 8 under the California Constitution. These challenges argue that by stripping a fundamental right from a group defined by a suspect classification, Prop. 8 guts the equality guarantees of the state constitution and divests the judiciary of its traditional role in protecting vulnerable social minorities from mistreatment by a bare



majority. They reason that Prop. 8 is not a permissible "amendment" to the constitution, but instead a more profound, course-changing "revision" that cannot be adopted through the petition process (but instead would have to pass through the legislature before ever going to the voters).

The argument is powerful in light of the history of California's constitution. But California Supreme Court case law on the distinction between amendments and revisions is sparse, and it doesn't inexorably dictate an outcome one way or the other — primarily because we've never seen the initiative power used in this targeted way before.

The California Supreme Court heard oral arguments on March 5 and will decide the case by June 3. I hope that the justices will side with the challengers and with state Attorney General Jerry Brown, and hold Prop. 8 invalid. But even if they don't, I'm confident that the shifts seen in public opinion polls will continue; that gay people will continue to be embraced in society as we increasingly are in media depictions; and that in the long run those on the side of full marriage equality will prevail, probably sooner here in California than in many states, but eventually throughout the nation.

Professor Cruz is a constitutional law expert focusing on civil rights and equality issues, including equal marriage rights for same-sex couples. He specializes in discrimination law and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.

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USC La Raza Judges & Lawyers Night
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Tuesday, April 7

Spring Clerkship Reception
California Club

Tuesday, April 14

PILF Pro Bono Awards Luncheon
Town and Gown

Thursday, April 16

USC Law Annual Awards Ceremony
Crocker Plaza

Thursday, April 23

Celebration of Diversity Reception
Carl M. and Carolyn C. Franklin Faculty Lounge

Thursday, April 23

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Davidson Conference Center

Friday, April 24

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