

IN THIS ISSUE

Alumni in public service
Students provide legal help in the Gulf Coast
Recent graduate assists with genocide case

SPRING / SUMMER
2006

USC | LAW Magazine



Serving the
public interest

SPRING / SUMMER 2006

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ON THE COVER

Serving the public interest

The pursuit of public interest at USC Law is a passion — one with a longstanding tradition that predates even the decades-old Public Interest Law Foundation, among the most active groups of its kind in the country. It is a passion that drives alumni such as Dick Rothschild '75 and Jim Preis '78, who started and continue their public service careers with organizations that set the standard for public interest law in their respective fields. It is a passion that inspires Nancy Cervantes '89 to fight for immigrant rights and Andrea Ramos '92 to advocate for children. With the support of a new Office of Public Service, USC Law continues to pave the way for future pioneers, educating tomorrow's leaders in public interest law.

(Pictured on the cover, from left to right: Nancy Cervantes, Jim Preis, Andrea Ramos and Dick Rothschild)

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FOR THE RECORD

The fall 2005 edition of *USC Law Magazine* incorrectly reported Kathleen Peratis' graduation year. She received her J.D. from USC Law in 1969, not 1966. Also, Peratis succeeded, vs. preceded, Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the ACLU.



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Looking forward



Dean Matthew L. Spitzer

Writing my last Dean's Message presented a bit of a quandary. Should I concentrate on past accomplishments or talk about the future? I have decided to do both by introducing the three new faculty we have added this year. Recruiting them was an accomplishment, but their main contributions to the law school are forthcoming.

Daria Roithmayr, an expert on critical race theory, joins us from the University of Illinois College of Law. She teaches civil procedure, critical race theory, evidence, globalization and the law, Latinos and the law, and feminist jurisprudence. Her scholarship utilizes a branch of applied computer science called "complex systems analysis." She uses computer-based models of human decisions, such as where to live, and includes the law as part of initial conditions and also as constraints on subsequent decisions. Allowing many virtual people to interact — think of the computer game "Sim City" and its many progeny — she can observe virtual outcomes and compare them to our real-world observations; these comparisons then allow her to make claims about the role of law. Professor Roithmayr's work represents, in my opinion, the start of an exciting new generation of legal scholarship.

Jonathan Barnett is an entry-level professor who works in intellectual property and in corporate law at Cleary, Gottlieb in New York City. His teaching will focus on these two fields as well. Professor Barnett received his J.D. from Yale University and already has written and published several articles, including one titled "Shopping for Gucci on Canal Street."

Shmuel Leshem, who has practiced corporate law in both the United States and in Israel, joins us after completing his J.S.D. in corporate law at New York University. He earned his J.D. and M.B.A. from Hebrew University in Israel and will teach corporate and business subjects. His scholarship is oriented toward economic analysis of corporate law, and his current research focuses on "lockup" agreements in mergers.

The addition of these new faculty members represents a tremendous "recruiting class" for USC Law. So, as I leave the dean's office to join Professors Roithmayr, Barnett and Leshem on the faculty, it is with a measure of pride at bringing them to USC. I eagerly anticipate interacting with them in the years to come.

Speaking of years to come, I look forward to seeing all of you at events, such as reunions, as a member of the faculty. And, as a member of the faculty, I hope that you will give the next dean the same warm and enthusiastic support you have given to me for the past six years.

Best wishes and heartfelt thanks.

BREAKING NEWS

At press time, USC Provost C. L. Max Nikias announced the appointment of USC Law Professor Edward J. McCaffery as interim dean of the law school, effective July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007. A member of the USC Law faculty since 1989, McCaffery is one of the nation's leading scholars in tax law. Visit www.law.usc.edu for more details on this announcement. For information on McCaffery's latest book, see Page 26.

*Matthew L. Spitzer '77
Dean and Carl M. Franklin Professor of Law
and Professor of Political Science*

USC Law welcomes trio to lead newly revamped Admissions and Student Affairs Office

Fresh framework



Gabriela Ryan, Chloe Reid and Julia Castellon Cogan

The three women heading USC Law's new Admissions and Student Affairs Office hit the ground running when they took over their positions in the middle of the 2005-06 school year.

Chloe Reid, associate dean of admissions and student affairs, Julia Castellon Cogan, director of admissions, and Gabriela Evia Ryan '04, director of student affairs, joined USC Law during a transition that also created the Office of Public Service.

With little time to tackle the learning curve, Reid — a graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Law — drew on her wealth of experience gained in roughly 10 years directing law school admissions.

Reid came to USC Law in January after four years as executive dean of Antioch University Southern California, with a stint as interim president. She says she looks forward to more interaction with students and seeing the transformation from naive to empowered that occurs between orientation and graduation.

"There's obviously something we're doing in that process that is changing that individual. I love being a part of that process," Reid said earlier this spring. "I love admissions. And I can even say that as I'm reading 6,000 applications."

Each one of those applications for 200 J.D. spots also passed through Cogan's desk. She began reviewing applications on her first day, in mid-November, and months later had piles of various shapes and colors around her office.

After nine years of experience in admissions at Johns Hopkins University, The George Washington University and, most recently, at Southwestern University School of Law, Cogan embraces the challenge of whittling down a large number of applications for a few coveted spots.

"It makes my job harder because they're all stories and they're all people — they're not just files," Cogan says. "If they put their time and their effort to put this application together, then we can take the time to approach it holistically."

Once applicants become students, they will get to know Gabi Ryan, who joined the law school in January. Some might already recognize her from her own USC Law days.

"I think they appreciate the fact that I was a student here not too long ago," she says.

After a year as an associate with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Ryan — who spent two years with Teach for America prior to attending law school — decided to return to education. She sees Student Affairs as an evolving office.

"We deal with quality-of-life issues," Ryan explains. "I'd love for students to think that this is their office, that this office is supportive, that the purpose is to help them find a balance between law school and their lives."

Reid and Cogan also have grand plans for admissions, including better communication via the USC Law web site and increased visibility to improve the applicant pool. Reid says her team is looking closely at programming "in terms of how we can create an active and interesting place for students."

— Lori Stuenkel

Jason Dietz '97 and Marc Doyle '97
have a hit on their hands with
review site Metacritic.com



Jason Dietz and Marc Doyle

Meta-successful

It's true — everyone's a critic. At least that's how it can seem if you're a hapless moviegoer on a Friday night, trying to choose from among the half-dozen films all deemed "one of the year's best!" in full-page newspaper ads.

But a pair of industrious USC Law grads found a way to cut through the information inundation. In January 2001, Jason Dietz '97 and Marc Doyle '97, along with partner Julie Doyle Roberts, launched the web site Metacritic (www.metacritic.com), which takes published reviews of movies, music, video games and books, distills a critic's viewpoint into a score from 1 to 100, and spits out an average, or "metascore" — all on a free, easy-to-use site that *Time* magazine deemed one of the "50 Coolest" of 2004.

The business world clearly agreed. Last fall, online media company CNET acquired Metacritic for an undisclosed sum. Not bad for three former lawyers who launched the site with little more than their computers and a bright idea.

Doyle and Dietz met during their first week at USC Law in the fall of 1994, when a quick bite at Carl's Jr. marked the beginning of a close friendship. At the time, Dietz was quick to see the potential of the Internet.

"During my first week of law school, I walked down to the brand new Leavey Library and its basement computer center and used Mosaic and the World Wide Web for the very first time,"

Dietz recalls. "Shortly after that, I started trying to learn HTML, and I eventually had my own very rudimentary personal web site on the USC servers."

After graduation, Dietz worked as a lawyer at accounting firm Arthur Andersen, while Doyle joined an entertainment law firm in Century City. But, although "we loved law school and we loved 'SC, we weren't really looking forward to the thought of practicing law," says Doyle.

It was Dietz who came up with an alternative career path. "I actually woke up with the idea [for Metacritic] one morning while I was on a business trip," says Dietz. "I thought about how there were starting to be a lot of reviews published on the web, and about how it would make sense to have a site that collected all of those reviews in one place."

Eventually Dietz, who had already left Arthur Andersen for a job as a web designer at an Internet consulting firm, came to Doyle with the Metacritic idea; immediately enthused, Doyle decided to quit his firm. He took a day job as a teacher and administrator at Santa Monica's Crossroads School and spent the rest of his time helping Dietz get Metacritic off the ground. In late 1999, they brought on Doyle's sister, Roberts, another ex-lawyer; she and her husband put up the bulk of the cash for the start-up. "Jason and I provided mostly sweat equity," Doyle says.

At first, they found working on Metacritic as tedious as slaving away in the corporate world. The three, with help from family members, pored over thousands of published reviews to create prototypes for the site. None took a salary, instead pouring every dollar earned from advertising and revenue-sharing deals back into the site.

Today, the site attracts close to 1 million unique visitors each month. Users are greeted by an eye-pleasing home page with a host of links to the movies, books, albums and games in current wide release. Click on one to jump to a page with capsule information and a clearly marked Metascore, color-coded to identify whether the reviews are generally good (green), generally bad (red) or mixed (yellow). They also provide links to the reviews, the scores Metacritic's staff has assigned to each, and an excerpt from the review meant to encapsulate the critic's opinion.

The result is a pleasant transparency. Take, for example, 2005 Best Picture Oscar winner "Million Dollar Baby." *The New Yorker* wrote that the film had "a beautifully modulated sadness that's almost musical" (critic score: 100); Salon.com thought it to be "a compendium of every cliché from every bad boxing melodrama ever made" (critic score: 20). On balance, critics loved the film; its Metascore was 86, making it Metacritic's 10th highest-rated movie of 2004.

The reviews of Metacritic have been much more uniform. Named by *Entertainment Weekly* as "the web's best film review site," it has won the favor of some of the industry's toughest critics, including Roger Ebert and *The Wall Street Journal* film critic Joe Morgenstern, both of whom are regular visitors to the site.

Fans shouldn't expect the CNET deal to change the site's fundamental charms. Metacritic remains a remarkably streamlined operation, with only four full-time employees. Much of the grunt work of reading reviews and assigning scores is handled by part-timers and fans who offer to read reviews on a contract basis. And each of the three founders still reads and scores hundreds of reviews a month.

"Our little team has worked so well, with all of us putting 100 percent into it," Doyle says. "It helps to know that there are no egos and that the person on the left and right of you is working just as hard as you."

— *Shashank Bengali*



USC LAW STUDENT CO-FOUND'S ONLINE CALENDAR PROGRAM

The idea was born when Brian Tom '08 (pictured above), who received his undergraduate degree from the USC Marshall School of Business, and his childhood friend Kun Gao, a Ph.D. candidate at Carnegie Mellon, decided they needed a calendar program that wasn't tied to one specific computer.

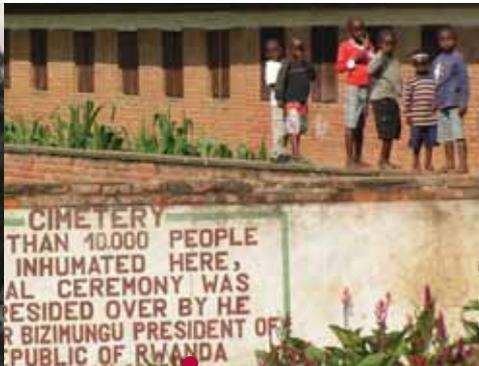
After two months of developing their product, the pair launched Planzo in April 2005. A Web 2.0 version followed last fall, and www.planzo.com now boasts more than 10,000 member accounts.

Planzo, a free, customizable online calendar program, enables users to schedule and post their events and share them with friends and family. It functions as an application similar to Microsoft Word, letting users enter information without the web page ever refreshing. The site also offers the option of having reminders sent to the user's e-mail address, cell phone and instant messaging service.

Although Planzo users range in age, Tom estimates that 40 to 60 percent of them are students. "It's also a social site," he notes, "where you can leave comments on other people's calendars."

— *Kristen Natividad*

Jesse Leff '06 works behind the scenes in a high-profile international case



Above: Jesse Leff with Masai villagers

Global perspective

Jesse Leff '06 sat in the courtroom of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda on Dec. 13, 2005, and watched as Aloys Simba — accused of genocide, complicity to commit genocide, and extermination and murder as crimes against humanity — awaited his verdict.

Simba was charged for his involvement in Rwanda's April 1994 genocide of roughly 800,000 ethnic minority Tutsis; Leff, then a third-year student at USC Law, had spent the past three months working with the three-judge panel that issued Simba's judgment.

"That was a surreal experience, seeing all the parties, all the people in the gallery, and knowing what was going to happen," recalls Leff, who joined the trial chamber of the ICTR, located in Tanzania, as an intern last fall. "Seeing the defendant for the first time — the gravity of it all weighs on you."

The ICTR found Simba guilty on two counts in the indictment and sentenced the retired lieutenant-colonel to 25 years in prison for his participation in two massacres of Tutsi civilians.

"I had the unique benefit of being able to look at the evidence that had been presented in trial, conduct legal research and assist the judges as they drafted the [120-page] judgment," Leff says. "The work was difficult and trying simply because of the seriousness of the crimes Simba was alleged to have committed. International criminal law is still developing, and there's relatively little precedent, so researching the legal questions in play was challenging."

Keeping up with his classmates at USC Law helped prime Leff to take on substantive work at the ICTR.

"The quality of students, the quality of teaching here — I think it prepared me to step in and adjust quickly, and show that I can analyze issues even though I don't have a background in international criminal law," he says.

Leff first visited Africa as an undergraduate, when he studied in Cameroon. He says he wanted to return to the continent in a role that would allow him to give back.

"The ICTR has the unique opportunity to promote reconciliation, international accountability and cooperation," he says. "It gives victims an international stage to voice their stories, and aims to provide defendants with trials that adhere to the highest standards of fairness."

USC Law Professor Kareem Crayton, who recommended Leff for the internship, says Leff is "unafraid to set his own course."

"He has intellectual curiosities about the law that move beyond the borders of the United States," Crayton adds, "which is not common for American law students."

Aside from the practical work experience, Leff said he gained a unique cultural perspective during his internship: He worked and lived with people from all over the globe, went on safari to Ngongoro Crater, and visited with Rwandan citizens in the "land of a thousand hills."

"I would go back and visit Rwanda just because of how much I enjoyed it and how beautiful the country was," says Leff, who will work for three months in the ICTR appeals chamber at The Hague, Netherlands, this fall. Next year, he will join Alschuler Grossman Stein & Kahan's civil litigation department, where he was a summer associate.

— Lori Stuenkel



David Sonosky

Lasting tribute

Newly established Centennial Scholarship honors the late David B. Sonosky '79

Sincerity. Determination. Humility. Compassion. These were the values held close by the late David B. Sonosky '79, an accomplished attorney who was committed to social service during his student days at the law school and as an undergraduate at USC. Although a car accident ended his life 18 years ago, his legacy today continues at USC Law through a generous endowment established by the Sonosky family.

A scholarship fund created in 1987 by David's parents, Jerol and the late Elizabeth Sonosky, has been augmented by the family and is now known as the David B. Sonosky Memorial Centennial Scholarship, designed to honor its namesake and continue to help USC Law attract and retain first-rate students.

"David was very active at USC, and our family has strong ties to the university," says his sister, Diane Montgomery, who also attended USC. "We wanted to keep his memory alive and, at the same time, provide an opportunity for exceptional students to experience a USC education."

Awarded every three years, the David B. Sonosky Memorial Centennial Scholarship grants full tuition to one USC Law student throughout his or her legal education. Each time a Sonosky Centennial Scholar graduates, a successor will be named. The first recipient, New York native Michael Rappaport '08, says the scholarship played an integral role in his decision to attend USC Law.

"It wasn't easy for me to move over 3,000 miles away from my friends and family, but the opportunity to attend a top law school on a full scholarship clinched the decision," says Rappaport, an industrial and labor relations graduate from Cornell University who will serve as an intern this summer with the labor relations team at Warner Bros. Television. "I'm grateful to the Sonosky family for giving me the chance to be part of the Trojan Network. I'm excited about the possibilities this scholarship has created for me."



FAMILY TIES

"Our family wants to help the university and the law school by perpetuating Dave's memory and ideals — that's paramount," says Jerol Sonosky (pictured left), who earned both his bachelor's

and master's degrees in petroleum engineering from USC and currently serves on the advisory board of USC's Wrigley Institute. The late Elizabeth Sonosky, David's mother, received her teaching credential from USC, and David's late uncle, George Stahl, received both his undergraduate and master's degrees from USC.

David, an attorney with the Shell Oil Company Legal Organization in Bakersfield, Calif., was an expert in corporate, environmental and administrative law. He earned a B.A. in economics magna cum laude from USC, where he served as president of Sigma Phi Epsilon and Order of Omega honorary fraternity during his senior year.

And then he pursued what his family fondly calls his childhood dream.

"David was very hard-working, and once he established a goal, he followed it through to the end," Montgomery says. "He knew as a child that he was going to be a lawyer. When he told us he was going to USC Law, that was it."

According to Jerol Sonosky, David's determination knew no bounds. Near the end of his bar review course, he came down with mononucleosis and clearly was too ill to take the California bar exam. He decided to take it anyway, recalls his father, "just for the experience, with plans to take it again at a later date."

David passed the first time.

"My brother didn't seek the spotlight, but he was always in it because he excelled so much," Montgomery says. "I think he would feel honored and humbled that a scholarship was created to recognize his values and accomplishments."

— Rizza Barnes



A BETTER L.A.

Two members of the USC Law community have been awarded a social justice fellowship by the Progressive Jewish Alliance, which spotlights issues of peace, equality, diversity and justice. Alisa Valderrama '07 and Sam Yebri '06 will spend the next two years learning about economic, social and political issues in L.A. as Jeremiah Fellows.

Valderrama and Yebri join a handful of other fellows who gather to examine such subjects as the death penalty, economic justice and the Jewish history of L.A., often holding discussions with well-known community leaders.

"In that regard, the Jeremiah Fellowship is an amazing opportunity," says Valderrama (pictured left), "because it brings us together, offers exposure to local leaders and builds a capacity for us to be effective leaders for the rest of our lives."

"LITIGATING LOSS" UPDATE

An arbitration court ruled in January that Austria must return five prized Gustav Klimt paintings to Maria Altmann, whose family owned the

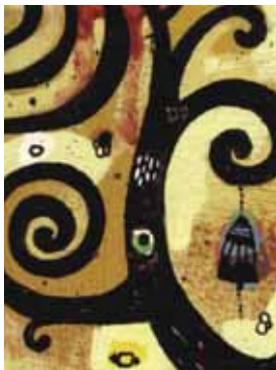


Illustration by Gina Triplett

artwork until they were taken by the Nazis as the Altmanns fled Vienna in 1938.

The case, brought by Altmann family friend E. Randol Schoenberg '91, was featured in the fall 2004 *USC Law Magazine*, shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Altmann had the right to sue the Austrian government in U.S. courts.

The paintings are valued at more than \$250 million. The most famed piece — the "Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I" featuring Altmann's aunt — alone is estimated to be worth \$120 million. Austria announced a day after the ruling that it

would honor the court's decision. The paintings are on display at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art through June 30.

The Supreme Court ruling that cleared the way for *Altmann v. Austria* was a landmark decision that broke new ground in U.S. and international law and sets the stage for other Holocaust-era victims to pursue similar claims. Prior to the case, most lawsuits filed by individuals over property plundered during the Holocaust were against museums or private collections. *Altmann v. Austria* was the first case of its kind against a government.



JACQUES SOIRET '67

this spring was inducted into the prestigious International Academy of Trial Lawyers. Upon his induction, Soiret became a lifetime member of the academy, which includes the world's top attorneys in civil and criminal trial practice. Membership is limited to 500 from the United States and 100 from other countries.

Soiret, of counsel with Kirtland & Packard, practices civil litigation focusing on aviation and aerospace, environmental law and product liability.

"It's a tremendous honor to be inducted in to the international academy," he told the *Metropolitan News-Enterprise*. "I'm humbled."

Members of the academy are selected following a rigorous evaluation process — encompassing legal skills, character, integrity and trial record — based on recommendations from attorneys and judicial officers. Nominations are kept secret; the selection committee contacts all federal and state judges in the nominee's jurisdiction, as well as lawyers who have appeared against the nominee.

UNIVERSITY LEADER



Home-building executive Bruce Karatz '70 was appointed in January to the USC board of trustees. Karatz is the chairman and CEO of KB Home, one of the largest homebuilding companies in the U.S. and France.

"Bruce Karatz has had a stellar career in home building, which has been recognized with numerous achievements and awards," said USC President Steven B. Sample. "We are looking forward to his experience and enthusiasm as a member of the USC board of trustees."

In addition to chairing the law school's board of councilors, Karatz was the 2004 USC Law commencement speaker and chair of the law school's most recent fund-raising campaign that raised \$74.5 million.



Taking a stand

Brian Washington '06 presented his original painting, "We Will Never Stand Silent," to the law school this spring. The framed artwork depicts civil rights-era protesters engaged in non-violent protest.

Washington, a self-taught artist who vividly depicts history as a reminder of the courageous individuals of the civil rights era, said he was moved to create this piece in part by USC Law's commitment to tolerance.

"As a student at the law school, I have been impressed by the administration's commitment to diversity and its progressive stance on issues of discrimination," Washington says. "This piece illustrates that discrimination and prejudice have no place in our society and that we will not stand silent in the face of intolerance and bigotry of any kind."

Washington says he hopes his painting will inspire future students to continue USC Law's tradition of fostering an environment of inclusion, tolerance and respect.

IN SESSION

Nine cases were heard at USC Law in March by the California Court of

Appeal, 2nd Appellate District, Division 2. The mid-morning and afternoon sessions were filled with students who heard attorneys argue a variety of cases during the court's first visit to USC.

Presiding Justice Roger W. Boren and Associate Justices Kathryn Doi Todd, Judith M. Ashmann-Gerst and Victoria M. Chavez heard both criminal and civil cases during their day-long visit. First-year students attended the oral arguments shortly before presenting their own in Moot Court. Many found it useful to see the spectrum of lawyering styles and wide range of questions from the justices.

"You can only prepare so much," says Lindsay Tabaian '08. "You never know what they're going to ask you."

FIRST-RATE CONTENDERS



Second-year students got a taste of arguing before the Supreme Court during the 57th Annual Hale Moot Court Honors Competition.

Johari Townes, Matthew Benedetto, Andy Oxman and Colin MacMillan (pictured left) undertook two important issues regarding constitutional rights: whether a public university professor's First Amendment rights were violated when she was dismissed based on in-class speech; and whether a person's statements to police during an informal stop should be suppressed if no Miranda warnings were provided.

Benedetto was declared champion of the oral advocacy contest, and Townes runner-up, by three judges: Chief Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit; Judge Pamela Ann Rymer of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit; and U.S. Attorney Debra Wong Yang of the Central District of California.

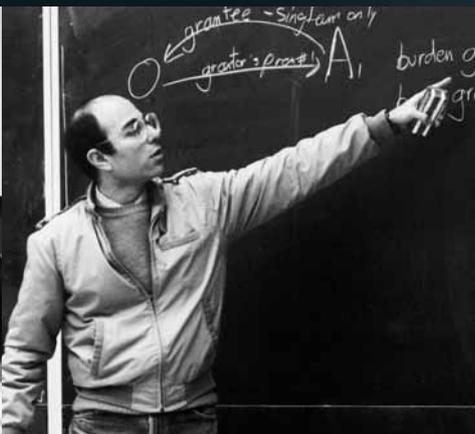
"Each one of you is just terrific," Judge Rymer said. "I thought it was great to have people who were so prepared and so willing to address the questions asked — even if the questions were crazy, which they often are. I wish every argument we heard were of this caliber."

Outgoing Dean Matthew L. Spitzer '77 reflects on the partnerships he helped create over the past six years

Building bridges

By Rizza Barnes

IN THE YEAR 2000, THE OLDEST LAW SCHOOL IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST NOT ONLY CELEBRATED ITS 100th ANNIVERSARY, IT ALSO WELCOMED A NEW DEAN. OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, MATTHEW L. SPITZER — HIMSELF A PRODUCT OF USC LAW — WOULD GUIDE THE SCHOOL TO GREATER HEIGHTS OF EXCELLENCE, BUILDING UPON A LONG-STANDING TRADITION FOUNDED BY HIS PREDECESSORS. ON JULY 1, 2006, HE WILL RETIRE AS DEAN AND RETURN TO HIS PROFESSORIAL ROOTS. HERE, COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS RECALL SOME OF HIS MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS.



TROJAN BEGINNINGS

Spitzer was born in Los Angeles in 1952, the year his father, William G. Spitzer, earned an M.S. in physics from USC. The Spitzer family lived in an apartment over a garage until Matt was 1½ years old, when they moved to West Lafayette, Ind., so that William could pursue a Ph.D. at Purdue University. They returned to Los Angeles in 1963, settling down in the Wilshire/Fairfax neighborhood when William joined the USC faculty as an associate professor. William would later become the first person in USC history to serve at every level of academic administration — as provost, dean of the College of Letters, Arts & Sciences, division dean and department chair.

“I saw how hard my father worked as an academic administrator, and I thought ... that’s a crazy idea,” Matt Spitzer says with a laugh. “I thought being a professor was a much better job.”

Then Scott Bice ’68 announced in 2000 that he was retiring as dean of USC Law after two decades at the helm. Colleagues encouraged Spitzer to apply for the job; it got him thinking.

“I knew that I owed a huge debt of gratitude to this school,” says Spitzer, who earned his J.D. from USC Law in 1977 and joined the law school faculty in 1981. “USC Law made me professionally, and I thought serving as dean was a way to partially pay it back. I’m glad I was able to do so.”

When Spitzer was named dean and Carl M. Franklin Professor of Law and Political Science, former USC Provost Lloyd Armstrong Jr. said: “Matt is a superb scholar and teacher who epitomizes the interdisciplinary approach that defines both USC and the law school. He will bring to the dean’s office the highest academic standards and the enthusiasm and creativity to lead the law school to the next level of excellence.”

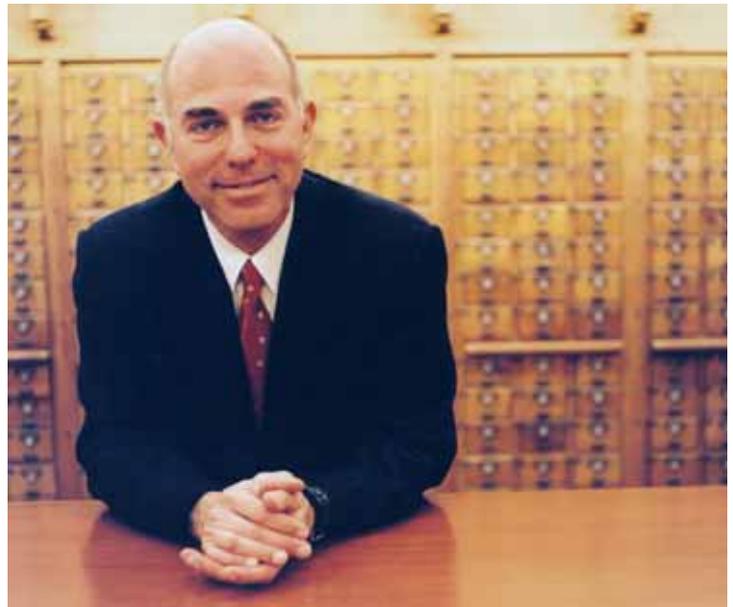
Years later, Armstrong’s predictions would prove to be accurate.

“Matt is a superb scholar who epitomizes the interdisciplinary approach that defines both USC and the law school.”

STELLAR SCHOLARS

One of Spitzer’s greatest gifts, many will say, is his ability to attract exceptional faculty members to the law school; he has an especially keen eye for rising stars.

“Matt Spitzer is one of the most important legal scholars in the country in his own right, and because of that, he’s able to recognize great talent, whether they’re just entering the academic world or being recruited as lateral hires,” says Elizabeth Garrett, USC’s vice provost for academic affairs and the Sydney M. Irmas Chair in Public Interest Law, Legal Ethics, Political Science, and Policy, Planning and Development. “He is incredibly supportive of USC’s scholars and has a very expansive view of what makes exceptional, cutting-edge interdisciplinary legal scholarship.”



Matthew Spitzer

In addition to Garrett, who joined USC after eight years at the University of Chicago Law School, Spitzer’s other recruits include: Gillian Hadfield, formerly of the University of California, Berkeley, University of Toronto and New York University schools of law; Andrei Marmor of the Interdisciplinary Center in Israel and a long-term visiting professor at Chicago; Jennifer Urban of Berkeley; Niels Frenzen, directing attorney of Public Counsel; and entry-level professors Kareem Crayton and James Spindler.

While wrapping up his final months as dean, Spitzer managed to enlist three more outstanding professors to the USC Law fold: corporate law expert Shmuel Leshem, intellectual property specialist Jonathan Barnett and Daria Roithmayr, a critical race theory scholar who spent the last five years at the University of Illinois College of Law.

According to Edward McCaffery, the Robert C. Packard Trustee Chair in Law and Political Science, faculty members appreciate Spitzer’s thoughtfulness and candor.

“Matt always notices and is appreciative of what other people in the building are doing,” McCaffery observes. “He sees the best in his faculty and speaks well of us. We were friends before he became dean, and he made time to keep up that friendship. He didn’t stop being himself just because he had to wear a suit all the time and had too many things to do and too little time to do it. For me, that’s his greatest accomplishment.”

Spitzer’s commitment to great scholarship extends beyond the walls of the school. Under his leadership, USC Law created four new interdisciplinary research centers — the Center for the Study of Law and Politics, the Center in Law, Economics and Organization, the Center in Law, History and Culture, and the Center in Law and Philosophy — that created bridges between the law school and other parts of the university and opened the campus to the country’s foremost thought leaders.

“He fostered this heightened sense of connectivity within the university, by creating joint ventures and joint appointments,”

McCaffery adds. “I see these things as a product of Matt’s personality. He is intelligent, curious, eager to learn, and he likes to nurture ideas and build partnerships.”

GLOBAL SCOPE

Spitzer says his leadership strategy is simple: brainstorm with others, listen carefully and implement good ideas — ideas like expanding USC Law’s reach across the globe.

“We needed to find ways to give our students the opportunity to get acquainted with different models of law, business and culture,” Spitzer says. “Why not get a taste of it by meeting lawyers from other countries and participating in exchange programs?”

Spitzer hired Associate Dean Debbie Call to develop the school’s LL.M. program that debuted during the 2002-2003 academic year. What began with 12 students quickly evolved to a slew of graduate and international offerings with four degree options, including dual J.D./LL.M. degrees through exchange programs with universities in Europe and Asia. This year, more than 60 candidates hailing from such countries as South Africa, Paraguay, Korea and the Czech Republic received a master’s degree from USC Law.

“Students have flocked to the international programs,” says Call. “Clearly, the dean’s finger has been ‘on the pulse’ with respect to their interests and aspirations.”

ALUMNI NETWORK

As a graduate of USC Law, Spitzer was particularly dedicated to strengthening connections between the law school and its alumni family. Working closely with the Office of Development and Graduate Relations, he implemented a new reunion and class gift program, which includes activities designed to engage alumni in the academic and social life of the law school.

“Dean Spitzer implemented some very effective ways of making us alums feel like we are still part of the family,” says Terry Villa-McDowell ’91. “I recall that after Hurricane Katrina, he sent an e-mail to all of the alumni saying that USC Law had accepted four students from Tulane. That message gave me a true sense of inclusion — he cared about me enough to send breaking news and let me know what the law school was doing in the face of a national disaster.”

STUDENT FOCUS

Spitzer also strengthened USC Law’s alliances with law firms and public interest organizations, working collaboratively to offer students a menu of unique scholarship, fellowship and service learning opportunities.

The Frank Rothman Scholarship, for example, awarded annually to one top applicant, provides full tuition for three years and a summer position at the Los Angeles office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom. Centennial Scholarships, meanwhile, pay full tuition for one USC Law student through the duration of his or her legal education and are awarded every three years.

Summer Fellowships also originated during Spitzer’s deanship. Offered to top admitted applicants, the fellowships provide a guaranteed paid position during the summer following the first year of law school. Fellows split their time between a law firm and a

business — learning about legal transactions from both sides — or spend the whole summer at a public-interest organization.

Furthermore, Spitzer expanded USC Law’s clinical legal programs. The USC Immigration Clinic, created in 2000, largely represents asylum seekers from around the globe. The USC Intellectual Property Clinic, which opened in 2005, offers students the opportunity to work with clients, from a variety of industries, who have concerns about the regulation of information, innovation and speech. And most recently, Spitzer created a new Office of Public Service, which coordinates pro bono and service opportunities for students at USC Law (see story on Page 14).

“What Matt did well isn’t always easy to see from the outside,” notes Scott Altman, associate dean and Virginia S. and Fred H. Bice Professor of Law. “As dean, he needed to find ways to provide students with more resources and to attract and retain top faculty. By investing resources in important student needs such as academic support and additional personnel for the development of various programs, he was able to take important steps in making our students happier. By effectively reaching out to donors, he was able to find funds to hire and retain our best professors. He accomplished these things even when the competition for the best students and the best professors continued to intensify, and that’s commendable.”

DEAN MATTHEW L. SPITZER’S history with USC Law spans more than three decades, beginning in 1975 when he became a first-year law student. The following timeline offers a glimpse of the milestones he achieved before and during his tenure as dean.

1977	Receives J.D. from USC Law
1979	Receives Ph.D. in social science from Caltech Joins Northwestern School of Law faculty
1981	Joins USC Law faculty
1987	Named the William T. Dalessi Professor of Law
1990	Named director of the Olin Program in Law and Rational Choice at USC
1992	Receives joint appointment at Caltech
1998	Named director of the USC Center for Communications Law and Policy
2000	Named Dean and Carl M. Franklin Professor of Law Launches USC Immigration Clinic Creates Center for the Study of Law and Politics
2001	Creates Center in Law, Economics and Organization Creates Center in Law, History and Culture
2002	Launches Summer Fellows Program Launches LL.M. program Establishes Rothman Scholars Program
2004	Establishes Centennial Scholars Program Announces new reunion format and class gift program
2005	Secures \$10 million gift from Jim Rogers ’63 Launches USC Intellectual Property Clinic Oversees café and library renovations Creates Center in Law and Philosophy
2006	Establishes Office of Public Service

Directing USC Law's new Office of Public Service paves the way for Lisa Mead '89 to return to her roots

circle FULL circle

By Gilien Silsby

When Lisa Mead '89 volunteered to accompany 37 USC Law students to hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast in March, she didn't know what her role would be.

Would she be the students' teacher, adviser, counselor or simply an observer?

As it turned out, Mead was a little of each.

"It was a powerful experience, and I'm so glad I was able to make the trip," says Mead, associate dean of USC Law's new Office of Public Service, launched in January to expand student opportunities for pro bono legal work, internships and service-learning programs. "I wanted them to know I was there for them and that they could come to me if they needed anything."



Mead spent time in Biloxi, Miss., and New Orleans, where USC Law students offered legal help to the area's most destitute residents. The unique spring break program, designed specifically

"I hadn't really done much volunteering before, but this project really got me pumped," says Luke Sisak '06, one of the lead organizers of the trip. "It was an absolutely amazing experi-

"The Office of Public Service is a great place to share an idea."

for law students through the National Student Hurricane Network, attracted 700 students from 61 law schools around the country. USC Law had one of the largest contingents.

The students worked alongside practicing attorneys from social service and government agencies, helping residents with FEMA forms, surveying damaged buildings and working on eviction cases. One law student group even sifted through the criminal docket system to create a post-Katrina database of pending cases and identify inmates who had over-served their time.

ence and some of the hardest work I've ever done. It was an incredible education in law, fairness and equity."

The high number of USC Law students who participated was another welcome surprise.

"We expected 10, maybe 15 students to show an interest," says Andrew Coffin '08, another student organizer. "We knew it would be tough because they had to commit to paying their own way."

Students paid for much of their own airline ticket and expenses, which capped out at about \$800 per person. To help offset some



"This experience provided a unique opportunity for law students to take what they've learned in the classroom and apply it in a real-world setting," Mead says. "Usually, law students don't have the luxury of participating in alternative spring breaks. They don't have the time, money or flexibility to take off for an entire week during the semester."

As one of the first major undertakings by the Office of Public Service, the Gulf Coast venture fit perfectly into Mead's goal of matching students with service-learning opportunities.

"For many students, the Gulf Coast trip marked their first experience in volunteering," says Mead. "Now that we're back in Los Angeles, I'm confident many of them will look to provide public service in the community, investigate clinical opportunities or internships, or work with judges or the courts."

Students — most of them in their first year of law school — said the seven-day trip inspired them to get involved in other service projects. Many consider the New Orleans experience an eye-opener.

of the costs, the law school covered hotel rooms and USC Law student organizations held fundraisers — such as a charity poker tournament — in the weeks leading up to the trip.

"We were just overwhelmed at the number of people who committed to this project," Mead says. "It really says something about the quality of our students."

HISTORY OF SERVICE

Lisa Mead is no stranger to public service. Before graduating from USC Law in 1989, Mead was instrumental in launching the Public Interest Law Foundation — a student-run organization dedicated to helping the poor navigate the legal system. She also was a recipient of the Miller-Johnson Equal Justice Prize for her commitment to social justice, as well as a Shattuck Award for her leadership skills.

After graduation, Mead worked for Public Counsel, as directing attorney of the Homeless Assistance Project. In 1993, she was wooed back to USC Law as director of career services and in 2001 was named associate dean of student services. She loved interacting with students, and it showed.

Rarely a day went by that Mead wasn't spotted talking to students in the café, in the lobby or by the elevator. After four years in that role, she received an offer she couldn't refuse: Make the transition as head of the new Office of Public Service.

"I loved working closely with the students, but I wanted to focus on helping them get involved in service learning," Mead says. "Overseeing this office is a dream come true."

While USC Law has been a leader in public interest programs for decades — its first clinical program was established in 1929 and its Public Interest Law Foundation is among the most active such organizations in the country — the new office has centralized and strengthened programs, and provided improved assistance to students who are interested in public service opportunities, said Dean Matthew L. Spitzer.

"I wanted to launch a formal office where students could go when they were excited about a volunteer opportunity or simply wanted help with an internship or externship," he says. "Lisa Mead was a natural for the position. Public service is her lifeblood."

of sending our students to New Orleans was originated and executed through a student connecting with this office."

The new office also enhances USC's reputation as a premiere service-learning university. Named *Time* magazine's College of the Year in 2000, USC was identified as having "one of the most ambitious social-outreach programs of any university in the nation."

"Our office clearly fits into the mission of the university," Mead says. "Service learning is really a win-win for everyone involved. For students, it gives them first-hand experience, and for nonprofits, they benefit from the hundreds of hours of volunteer time."

Recent graduate Gregory Pleasants '06 has engaged in numerous public service projects at USC Law and volunteered in Biloxi over spring break. He said Mead's support and encouragement of public interest at the law school is certain to spark interest from students who may never have considered engaging in service projects.

"She has an enthusiasm that's good for students to see," Pleasants says. "She really has the respect of the students. Not only was she a practicing public interest lawyer, but she knows how to get people involved."



Lisa Mead (pictured above) surveys a New Orleans neighborhood.

BREAKING GROUND

So far, the office has received a kaleidoscope of requests and questions. One student is interested in creating a tax clinic. A local church would like student volunteers for its legal clinic. Legal services and government agencies from all over the country are contacting the office seeking students to intern with their lawyers. Local judges are clamoring to recruit more USC Law students. Students also are interested in identifying internships with the United Nations and a number of international human rights organizations. And, of course, the law school's five clinical programs — post-conviction, immigration, intellectual property, children's rights and employment law — are looking for students to get involved in their projects.

"Since we opened, we've been flooded with ideas and requests," Mead says. "The Office of Public Service is a great place to share an idea. I may not be able to make it happen by myself, but I know who we might discuss it with. The whole idea

Pleasants adds he was especially impressed that Mead made the trek to the Gulf.

"It was symbolic," he notes. "She's got kids, a husband and a life, but she went with us on the Gulf Coast trip, and it was obvious to everyone she was going to provide this wonderful learning experience for us. She doesn't just talk about how we should all get involved. Dean Mead walks the walk and leads by example."

Rigorous scholarship and a collegial environment
create recipe for innovation at USC Law

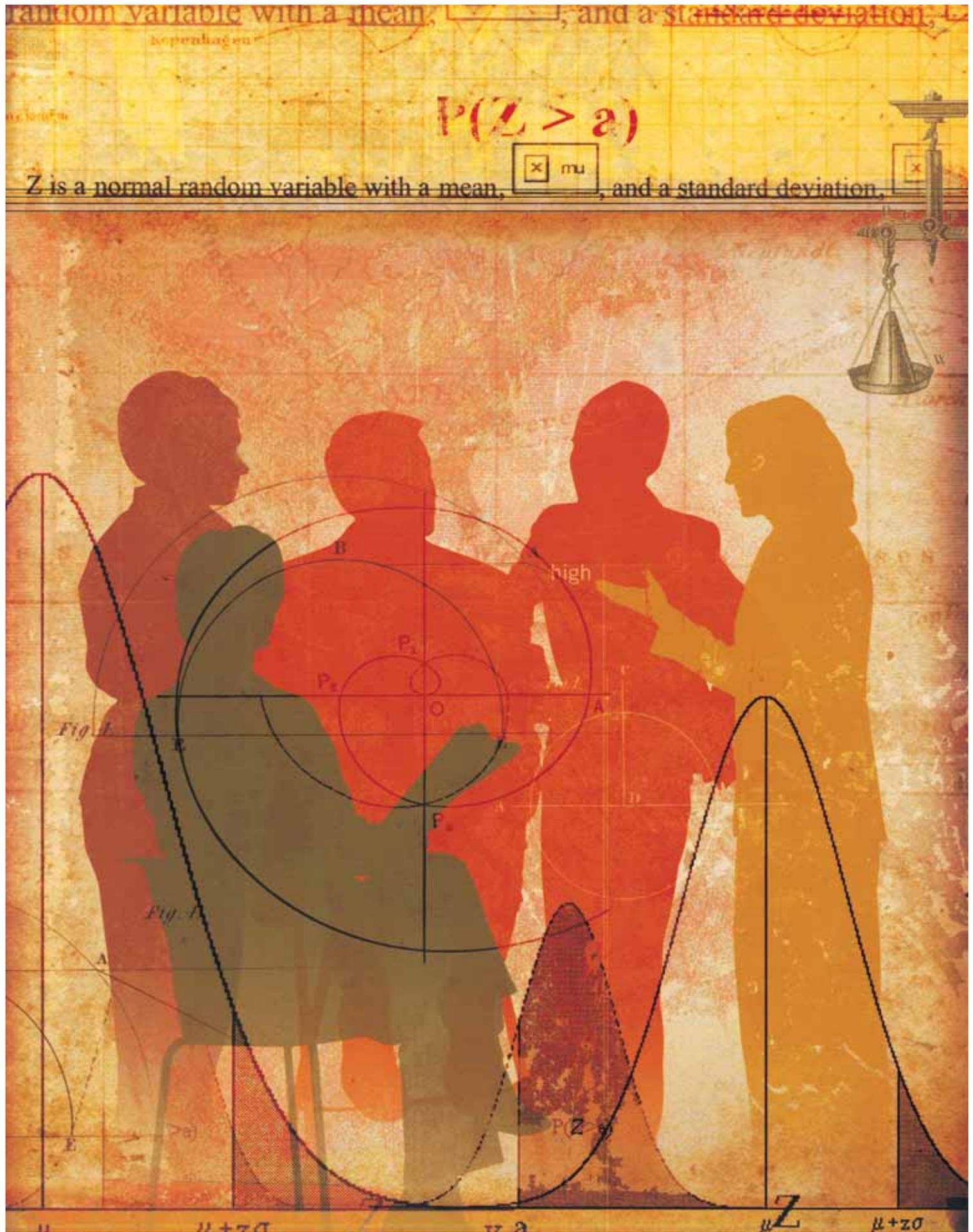
Ahead of the curve

By Rizza Barnes

For USC Law Professor Dan Simon, there is no place like home — at least when it comes to faculty workshops.

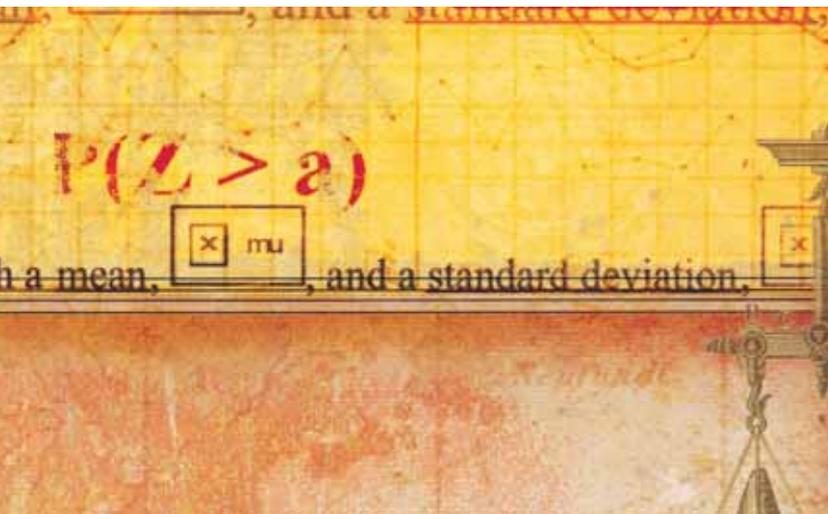
Simon was among several USC Law faculty members this spring who were given the opportunity to present a paper to their peers for early feedback. A majority of the law school faculty attended the workshop, along with professors and graduate students from other parts of the university.

“The sheer mass of knowledge and wisdom that pass through the room semester by semester is just remarkable,” says Simon, an expert in law and psychology. “People ask really smart,



insightful and vital questions that push one's research to its limits. When I attend workshops at other institutions, I invariably find myself disappointed because the ones at home are so well done. At USC, I walk away from the workshop knowing that it has been scrutinized by my most critical audience. Once I address the range of comments offered by my colleagues, the piece is ready to be sent off for publication."

The success of USC's workshops, introduced 40 years ago when the school pioneered a nationwide shift in legal scholarship toward interdisciplinary research, has helped make the school's faculty among the most respected for scholarly contributions. Papers produced by USC Law professors — many of whom hold a Ph.D. or master's degree in another discipline — have exceptional reach within and outside the legal arena. According to the Social



Science Research Network, an online database of scholarship, USC Law as of May ranks second in total downloads per author, fifth in total downloads per paper, seventh in new downloads per author, and ninth in total number of downloads of all time.

Largely based on the quality of scholarship, "An Empirical Study of Empirical Legal Scholarship: The Top Law Schools" — a 2005 study by Tracey George at Vanderbilt University — put USC Law in a four-way tie for first place, along with the University of California, Berkeley, George Mason University and Northwestern University. Penn ranked fifth, Cornell sixth and Chicago, Stanford and Yale tied at seventh in George's study, which measured the percentage of law faculty with social science Ph.D.s and secondary appointments, along with publication in peer-reviewed law and social science journals.

Clayton Gillette, vice dean of New York University Law School, offers this observation: "USC has one of the strongest law faculties in the country. It has a remarkable reputation of hiring leading scholars and of creating an environment that's both collegial and supportive of scholarship."

A STORIED PROGRAM

Today, USC Law's faculty workshop program is not only thriving but renowned in legal academic circles. Once or twice a week during the school year, the law school's professors — or distinguished visitors from other parts of the university and from other institutions — present papers to a group of their peers for their input. The rules are simple. No. 1: Read the paper before the workshop. No. 2: Attend the workshop.

Suzanne Scotchmer, a professor with Berkeley's School of Public Policy and Department of Economics, has presented several times at USC Law, most recently this February. The criticism is not always gentle, she says, but always helpful, especially because it comes from "a world-class faculty known especially for its collegiality."

"I have always been impressed by the fact they read the work carefully in advance, so that we get directly to the discussion," Scotchmer says. "To get so much time from busy and eminent people is a pleasure and a gift."

Mike Shapiro, the Dorothy W. Nelson Professor of Law, notes that the workshops serve more than just the presenter.

"I attend the workshops to learn, just as much as I go there to help the author," says Shapiro, a USC Law veteran of 36 years who specializes in bioethics and in constitutional law. "I go there to get educated, to participate in the growth of the school and the development of scholarship. There may be poor papers, but rarely do we have poor workshops. At their core, the workshops serve as a venue by which people from different fields can talk to one another. And the people here are willing and able to talk from field to field."

A LOOK BACK

USC Law's faculty workshop model, in one respect, has become a microcosm of a larger movement that began four decades ago, when the school invested in the novel notion that interdisciplinary scholarship could become the core of its curriculum.

Then, in 1973, the school took another step by starting to share professors between USC Law and the California Institute of Technology's division of social sciences. "Permanent" visiting professorships were created to formalize the law school's existing connections at Caltech, and a dual J.D./Ph.D. degree component was developed. (USC Law Dean Matthew L. Spitzer, in fact, was the first graduate of that dual degree program.) Today, 18 USC Law faculty members hold joint appointments at other schools within the university or at other institutions, and 15 professors from other USC departments hold joint appointments at USC Law.

Elizabeth Garrett, vice provost for academic affairs and the Sydney M. Irmas Professor of Public Interest Law, Legal Ethics, Political Science and Policy, Planning, and Development, directs the USC-Caltech Center for the Study of Law and Politics. The CSLP grew out of the partnership sparked in the 1970s and now involves Stanford University, the University of California, Los

Angeles, the University of California, San Diego, and the University of San Diego. The center encompasses a diverse range of disciplines, including law, political science, economics, public administration, psychology and communication. Since 2004, it also has included the Initiative and Referendum Institute, the nation's most prominent educational and research organization on direct democracy.

USC Law's other centers include faculty from a wide range of fields and typically have co-directors from other units on campus. The Center for Communication Law and Policy is a joint venture with the USC Annenberg School for Communication. The Center for Law, History and Culture and the Center for Law and Philosophy both are partnerships with the College of Letters, Arts & Sciences. The Pacific Center for Health Policy and Ethics includes faculty from medicine, occupational therapy, anthropology, public policy and communication.

This fall, Professor of Law and History Daniel Klerman will head the Center in Law, Economics and Organization, which draws upon resources from the College, the economics department and the USC Marshall School of Business. Through his affiliation with CLEO, Klerman — whose scholarship concentrates on English legal history and law and economics — has begun collaborating with Timur Kuran, a USC economist with a joint appointment at the law school. Kuran runs the USC Institute for Economic Research on Civilizations, and his research focuses on law and institutions in the Islamic world. The pair are co-planning a conference.

"The centers are living, breathing symbols of what USC scholarship is about," says Edward McCaffery, the Robert C. Packard Trustee Chair in Law and Political Science, a visiting professor at Caltech and an internationally recognized expert in tax law. "It's less unusual than it used to be, but a sophisticated, multidisciplinary

AN EYE FOR TALENT

Brian Leiter, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin who runs the best-read blog on legal academics, calls USC's "keen eye for the very best young legal scholars ... the stuff of 'legend' in the legal academy." Part of this comes from the school's commitment to interdisciplinary learning and to developing young talent.

"We've been doing interdisciplinary scholarship for a long time, and the people we hire as junior faculty get it early in their career," Shapiro says. "When we expose them to effective interdisciplinary work, they soak it up, and it becomes a part of them. The scholarship process requires the mutual interaction of ideas, which is a benefit to the entire faculty."

Dean Spitzer points out that untenured professors get first pick at workshop dates. In fact, Kareem Crayton, an election law and voting rights scholar, and James Spindler, an expert in corporate law, presented papers just months after joining USC in fall 2004.

"The mentorship that I get from my senior colleagues is incomparable," says Crayton, previously a fellow and instructor of law at Vanderbilt University. "When I ask for their comments, I always expect a fresh and helpful perspective on my research. They're energetic, versatile, and frankly, they're just plain nice people to work with."

The special attention given to junior faculty has engendered enduring affection among former faculty members who forever consider themselves USC professors, says Margaret Jane Radin '76, now at Stanford and soon to be heading to the University of Michigan. Both Radin and Stephen Morse, now at Penn, recall the school's centennial celebration as a "classic" USC Law event, featuring daylong academic workshops in which current and past faculty presented papers.

"... a sophisticated, multidisciplinary focus permeates us more than any other law school in the country."

focus permeates us more than any other law school in the country. Here, it's the norm that you have another discipline or that you become fluent in several of them."

Michael Knoll, an associate dean at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and former professor at USC Law, adds that USC was well ahead of the curve in the evolution of legal scholarship.

"Most law schools today have a substantial component of interdisciplinary work, but USC was a real innovator," he says. "And USC continues to woo some of the best scholars in a much more competitive world today."

"USC invited all of the people who'd been on faculty to attend, and virtually everyone showed up," says Morse. "We stay in touch professionally and personally, and frequently talk about how wonderful it was to be on the faculty at USC, how sad we are not to be there, and how much we miss it. We couldn't imagine a more exciting place to be a law professor."

Faculty

*Footnotes (a selection of recent faculty activities)



Jody Armour, Roy P. Crocker Professor of Law, was a featured speaker at the National Bar Association's 17th Annual Wiley A. Branton Issues Symposium. He presented "Michael, Martha and Monica — The Impact of the Media on High Profile Criminal Cases" with criminal defense attorney Tom Mesereau. Armour's op-ed about what he calls the "black tax," or the price blacks and other minorities pay daily because of racial stereotypes, was published in the *Los Angeles Times*.



Alexander M. Capron, Scott H. Bice Chair in Healthcare Law, Policy and Ethics, and Professor of Law and Medicine, has been selected by USC Provost C. L. Max Nikias to join the university's Biomedical Nanoscience Initiative Steering

Committee. The committee will formulate strategy and make recommendations regarding future investments in nanobiomedicine.



Mary L. Dudziak, Judge Edward J. and Ruey L. Guirado Professor of Law, History and Political Science, presented a paper, "Working Toward Democracy: Thurgood Marshall and the Constitution of Kenya," at a faculty workshop

at Harvard Law School. She served as commentator on a panel on "The Morality of Borders" at the annual meeting of the American Society for Legal History in Cincinnati. She presented her paper, "Exporting American Dreams: Thurgood Marshall and the Constitution of Kenya," at a faculty workshop at Northeastern Law School and spoke on "Legal Borderlands: Law and the Construction of American Borders" as part of the American Conversations series, co-sponsored by the American Studies Program at Boston University and Boston University Law School. She is co-editor with Leti Volpp of *Legal Borderlands: Law and the Construction of American Borders*, a special issue of *American Quarterly* to be released as a book by Johns Hopkins University Press.



Elizabeth Garrett, vice provost for academic affairs at USC and Sydney M. Irmas Professor of Public Interest Law, Legal Ethics, Political Science, and Policy, Planning, and Development, presented her research on hybrid democracy at the USC California Policy Institute in Sacramento and presented

"The Promise and Perils of Hybrid Democracy" at Southwestern Law School's distinguished speakers series. She spoke about the final report of President Bush's Tax Reform Panel, on which she served, during a luncheon keynote at the USC Law 2006 Tax Institute and at the UCLA Tax Workshop. Garrett also was widely quoted by the media about California's special election and participated in the symposium "Democracy on the Brink: The California Special Election," sponsored by the USC-Caltech Center on Law and Politics and the Initiative and Referendum Institute at USC.



Ariela J. Gross, professor of law and history, presented her paper "Slavery and Popular Constitutionalism" at a panel on "Courts, Judicial Review and Popular Constitutionalism in the Antebellum Era" at the AALS annual meeting in Washington, D.C. She chaired a panel on "Judicial Review, Public Opinion and Slavery" at the American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting in Cincinnati.



Gillian Hadfield, Richard L. and Antoinette S. Kirtland Professor of Law and Professor of Economics, gave a talk on "The Vanishing Trial" at a Loyola Law School faculty workshop. She participated in a conference on Modeling Law at New York University Law School and presented her paper, "The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund: 'An Unprecedented Experiment in American Democracy,'" to the Law and Society Colloquium at NYU.



Gregory C. Keating, William T. Dalessi Professor of Law, published his paper, "Property Right and Tortious Wrong in *Vincent v. Lake Erie*" in UC Berkeley's online journal, *Issues in Legal Scholarship*. The article was part of a virtual symposium on "*Vincent v. Lake Erie Transportation Co.* and the Doctrine of Necessity." He co-moderated a Socrates Seminar on "Personal Roles and Professional Integrity" at the Aspen Institute, along with Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, director of the division of bioethics at the National Institutes of Health. The Socrates Seminars are part of the institute's Young Leaders Program, which targets emerging leaders in business and government. Keating also was interviewed frequently by the media on topics ranging from

the UCI Medical Center's transplant program to the wiretapping prosecution of a former celebrity private investigator.



Thomas D. Lyon, professor of law, co-authored the chapter "Domestic Violence and Child Protection: Confronting the Dilemmas in Moving from Family Court to Dependency Court" in the *Handbook of Children, Culture, and Violence* (Sage Press). Along with Ray LaMagna '06 and attorneys at Arnold and Porter, he co-authored an amicus brief to the Supreme Court on behalf of the National Association of Counsel for Children in *Davis v. Washington* and *Hammon v. Indiana*. He spoke at the 20th Annual San Diego International Conference on "Child and Family Maltreatment: Psychological Evidence in Sexual Abuse" and "Increasing Accuracy in Forensic Interviews." His research study, "Development of Temporal-Reconstructive Abilities," co-authored with Oberlin College Professor William Friedman, was published in *Child Development*, the leading journal in developmental psychology. His chapter, "Speaking with Children," was published in the *Handbook for the Treatment of Abused and Neglected Children* (Haworth Press) and was reprinted in *State of the Art Advocacy for Children, Youth and Families* (National Association of Counsel for Children).



Clare Pastore, visiting professor of law and senior counsel at the ACLU Foundation of Southern California, has been named one of Southern California's "Super Lawyers" by *Los Angeles* magazine. She spoke on a panel regarding developments in access to justice for civil litigants at the annual conference of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association in Orlando, Fla.



Jean Rosenbluth, director of legal writing and advocacy and adjunct professor of law, moderated a panel at the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Pasadena as part of a two-day Appellate Practice Workshop sponsored by the Federal Bar Association. Rosenbluth was widely quoted by the media about the execution of Stanley "Tookie" Williams and separate stories on lethal injection.



Charles Whitebread, George T. and Harriet E. Pflieger Professor of Law, gave his exam-taking lecture at St. Thomas, Haveline, William Mitchell, the University of Minnesota, Southwestern Law School, SMU, Texas Wesleyan, University South Texas, University of Houston, Texas Southern University, University of San Diego, California Western University and Thomas Jefferson. He spoke on "Recent Decisions of the United States Supreme Court" to the Criminal Advocacy Program of Wayne County in Detroit, to Minnesota judges in the Twin Cities, and at the Oklahoma Judicial Conference in Oklahoma City.

STOLZENBERG APPOINTED TO NAMED CHAIR



USC Law Professor Nomi Stolzenberg, who has devoted her legal scholarship to religion's role in family, community and public education, was named the Nathan and Lilly Shapell Chair in Law at a dedication ceremony in January.

Stolzenberg, who joined the USC Law faculty in 1988, is a strong proponent of multidisciplinary research and teaching. She helped establish the USC Center for Law, History and Culture, which involves scholars and students from throughout USC's campus.

"It is an honor to receive an academic chair and a particular honor to receive a chair named for Lilly and Nathan Shapell," said Stolzenberg. "I am well aware of the important role they have played in Los Angeles."

Nathan Shapell's devotion to community — through government and private organizations — has been constant, ranging from his work on Prop 13, to his active support for affordable housing, to his leadership on the fight against drug abuse, said Associate Dean Scott Altman, who presided over the ceremony.

Shapell is the co-founder, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Shapell Industries, a privately owned company that

has developed real estate throughout California since 1955. A native of Poland, he is a Holocaust survivor and a three-time presidential appointee to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

Lilly Shapell, who passed away in 1994, was a multi-linguist who held an honorary doctoral degree from Bar-Ilan University. Also a survivor of the Holocaust, she worked as an interpreter for the U.S. Army after World War II.

"Like the Shapell family, my grandparents were Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe," Stolzenberg said. "There were no lawyers in my family, but there were public school teachers, professors, writers and, above all, readers. So it was quite by accident that I ended up going to law school. But it was probably not entirely an accident that having done that, I became a law professor."

Although Stolzenberg's scholarship ranges widely, Altman said her work "almost always includes a focus on community," often addressing the challenges to maintaining community in the face of liberal education or assimilative pressure. She is currently at work on a book on liberalism and religion in American law and culture, which explores the paradoxes of religious tolerance from the angles of cultural and intellectual history, political theory and law.

— Gillen Silsby

USC Law conference on Capitol Hill examines state of wireless broadband



Matthew Spitzer, Andrew Viterbi and Simon Wilkie

USC Law last fall brought together key scholars, policy makers and telecommunications industry officials in Washington, D.C., to examine the state of wireless broadband deployment in the United States.

Held at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill, the conference examined a key question facing the industry: Are U.S.-government policies impeding the rollout or adoption of cutting-edge wireless broadband technologies?

Although new technologies are being developed rapidly, the United States often is perceived to be lagging behind other nations in making these technologies available to the consumer.

“Advances in wireless technology promise new communication possibilities that will profoundly impact consumers, the workplace, social interaction and public safety,” says Simon Wilkie, director of the USC Center for Communication Law and Policy (CCLP). “The aim of the conference was to explore how the different legal and regulatory structures adopted by differing countries have affected the rollout and adoption of these technologies, and to suggest directions for reform.”

Panels covered such topics as international differences in policy and technology adoption, spectrum policy reform, public safety, and the appropriate role of municipal WiFi networks.

Andrew Viterbi, co-founder of QUALCOMM and a member of the USC board of trustees, delivered the keynote luncheon address, which focused on the enormous global impact of wireless technology. Other conference participants included senior industry executives and four former FCC officials: Professors Thomas Hazlett of George Mason University, Gerald Faulhaber of the University of Pennsylvania, Simon Wilkie of USC, and Robert Pepper of Cisco Systems.

Spearheaded by CCLP, the conference “helped key lawmakers, industry sources and the public at large understand the state of broadband,” says Wilkie. “I look forward to continuing this type of forum in which scholars, policy makers and leaders from the telecommunications industry can gather to exchange ideas, bridge communication gaps and gain perspective from their respective areas.”

Affiliated with USC Law and the USC Annenberg School for Communication, CCLP is known for its rigorous academic work on the crucial questions of communications law and policy facing the United States and the international community. For further information on CCLP and the wireless broadband conference, visit <http://cclp.usc.edu>.

— *Gileen Silsby*

EXPLORING BUDGET POLICY ISSUES



USC Law this spring hosted a two-day conference examining local, state and national budget policy issues.

Sponsored by the USC-Caltech Center for the Study of Law and Politics (CSLP) and USC Law, “Fiscal Challenges: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Budget Policy” brought together scholars from across the country to present new research on topics ranging from the theories and regulation of deficits to constitutional issues of budgeting.

In addition to assembling leading authorities in the field, the event showcased emerging scholars from a variety of disciplines who examine budget policy through the lens of law, psychology and political science.

Douglas Holtz-Eakin, former director of the Congressional Budget Office, delivered the keynote address, while notable budget scholars — including Alan Auerbach of UC Berkeley, Michael Boskin of Stanford University and the Hoover Institution, and Daniel Shaviro of New York University Law School — presented research.

The conference was co-hosted by Harvard Law School and by the USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development through a grant from the James Irvine Foundation. CSLP is directed by Elizabeth Garrett (pictured above), the Sydney M. Irmis Professor of Public Interest Law, Legal Ethics, Political Science, and Policy, Planning, and Development and vice provost for academic affairs at the University of Southern California.



Jennifer Urban

Study questions validity of cease-and-desist notices for online copyright claims

A joint USC and University of California study has revealed that nearly a third of the copyright cease-and-desist notices sent to Google Inc. and other online service providers under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) have significant problems with copyright claims or likely defenses.

The study, published in Silicon Valley's *Santa Clara Journal of High Tech Law and Technology* in March, found extensive and overbroad applications of the DMCA process, which researchers believe severely threaten Internet speech.

"The results indicate a possibly serious problem for Internet speech because DMCA notices cause online service providers to pull material from the Internet to protect themselves from copyright lawsuits, generally before their users have notice or an opportunity to respond," says USC Law Professor Jennifer Urban, director of the USC Intellectual Property Clinic and co-author of the study with Laura Quilter, a UC Berkeley Samuelson Clinic fellow.

"When other legal issues were also counted, a very high percentage of notices inspired questions about the process," Quilter adds.

Under Section 512 of the DMCA, passed in 1998 by Congress, copyright holders may ask online service providers to remove content that may infringe upon their copyrights. Because this type of notice is sent with no judicial review of whether a copyright was actually infringed upon, legal researchers have worried that the system is ripe for abuse. Until this study, however, they had no way to know whether Section 512 was working as hoped, or whether people were using it inappropriately.

Urban and Quilter studied a group of nearly 900 DMCA notices collected at the Chilling Effects Clearinghouse (www.chillingeffects.org), which for more than three years has been gathering cease-and-desist letters related to online expression.

The majority of the notices were sent to Google Inc., which submits all such notices to Chilling Effects in order to create transparency in the process. The researchers reviewed the notices to see how often the complaint was legally problematic. For example, they looked at whether fair use or other defenses were applicable.

"Copyright law gives creators strong rights, an important benefit to society," says Urban. "But it also has important protections for competitors, other creators and the public. We wondered how strong the legal claims in DMCA 512 notices were, because if the underlying copyright complaints were clear-cut, then the bias toward takedown might be less of a problem."

"Unfortunately," Quilter notes, "we found a high percentage of notices — 30 percent — in which material was taken down when there was a clear question about whether it was actually infringing copyright. These are the kinds of situations where it is very important to have a court hear the dispute before material is removed."

The problems with legal arguments spilled over into other areas, adds Quilter. For example, many of the Google notices involved groups who were getting competitors' sites pulled out of the search index. Further, some copyright holders who, it was hoped, would benefit from 512 — particularly movie and music companies — do not seem to be helped much, since that traffic has moved to peer-to-peer networks.

Urban and Quilter say the process is difficult to study because it is based on private letters.

"We really appreciate the willingness of online service providers such as Google to donate notices, so we can check if the process is working," adds Urban.

A summary of the study results is available online at http://mylaw.usc.edu/documents/512Rep-ExecSum_out.pdf.

Co-edited by USC Law's Edward McCaffery, a new book explores how behavioral research can improve public welfare



Edward McCaffery

Probing the basis of economic theory

Some of the government's economic and social programs, crafted with rational participants in mind, may need an overhaul. So says *Behavioral Public Finance*, edited by USC Law Professor Edward J. McCaffery and Joel Slemrod, professor of economics at the University of Michigan.

The volume, released in January by Russell Sage, applies the principles of behavioral economics to the government's role in constructing economic and social policies. In doing so, *Behavioral Public Finance* questions the basic underpinnings of economic theory.

"We know that people often do not act consistently in their own self-interest when making economic decisions," says McCaffery, the Robert C. Packard Trustee Chair in Law and Political Science at USC Law and a visiting professor of law and economics at the California Institute of Technology. "This basic fact can have important theoretical implications and provide a new way of examining public policies, including taxation, public spending and the provision of adequate pensions."

Contributors to *Behavioral Public Finance* come from a variety of disciplines, including law, economics, marketing and finance. These leading scholars examined several aspects of economic life, focusing on how behavioral research can improve public welfare. Deborah A. Small, George Loewenstein and Jeff Strnad found, for example, that public support for a tax often depends not only on who bears its burdens, but also on how the tax is presented to the public. People tend to prefer corporate taxes over sales taxes, even though the cost of both eventually is paid by the consumer, because the more hidden corporate tax has no readily identifiable "victim."

James J. Choi, David Laibson, Brigitte C. Madrian and Andrew Metrick assessed the impact of several different features of 401(k) plans on employee savings behavior. They found that when automatically enrolled in a retirement savings plan, employees overwhelmingly accept the status quo and continue participating, while employees without automatic enrollment typically take longer than a year to join the savings plan. This finding might help the government in its construction of social or tax-favored savings plans.

The book also looks at taxpayer compliance. Previous research has suggested that the low rate of IRS audits means far fewer people should voluntarily pay their taxes than actually do. In *Behavioral Public Finance*, John Cullis, Philip Jones and Alan Lewis present new research showing that many people do not underreport their incomes — even when the probability of getting caught is a mere 1 percent — because they are not acting as if under a strict, "rational choice" model of individual behavior.

"Human beings are not always rational, utility-maximizing economic agents," McCaffery says. "Behavioral economics has shown how human behavior departs from the assumptions made by generations of economists. It is time to bring those important insights into the large and growing public sector, of tax and spending programs and the like."



— Betsey G. Hawkins

USC Law Professor Susan Estrich's latest book argues why Hillary Clinton should be elected president in 2008



Susan Estrich

Making the case for Hillary

She is among the nation's most polarizing politicians, but love or hate her, Hillary Clinton may be the only woman with the power and promise of winning a bid for the White House.

In her new book, *The Case for Hillary Clinton* (ReganBooks, 2005), USC Law Professor Susan Estrich makes this argument and provides a detailed analysis on why Clinton should run for president in 2008.

"With the Bush administration now in its final years, all eyes are turning to the 2008 political season," says Estrich, the Robert Kingsley Professor of Law and Political Science at USC. "Among Democrats, no candidate even approaches Hillary Rodham Clinton."

In *The Case for Hillary Clinton*, Estrich paints a detailed picture of how the New York senator would bring vitality and lasting change to the office of the presidency.

"Look at what she has done in New York — she has brought that state together," Estrich says.

Although Clinton hasn't formally announced that she is running, Estrich believes she already has launched a soft campaign. "Her opponents are certainly already running against her," Estrich says. "She has much more experience than any other Democrats that have floated, including Mark Warner and John Edwards. I even think she would be much better than Al Gore or John Kerry."

And that may have been the biggest surprise to Estrich when she was researching the book.

"The most important thing was convincing myself that she could win," Estrich says. "I didn't start off being persuaded she could. I was always much closer to her husband and more

impressed with his skills than with hers. I looked at what she did in New York and found that she's disciplined, charismatic and a real doer."

Estrich comes with her own political credentials. She was Gov. Michael Dukakis' campaign manager when he ran for president in 1988 and is a political commentator on Fox News. She also is a longtime acquaintance of Bill and Hillary Clinton's, giving her extensive access to the Clintons' friends, advisers and confidants.

"I interviewed hundreds of people for this book," Estrich says. "I had thousands of pages of notes to go through when I finally sat down to write it."

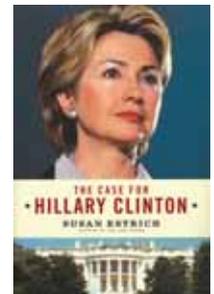
The Case for Hillary Clinton already has sold more than 50,000 copies; the paperback version debuts this fall.

What are Washington insiders saying?

"President Clinton called me on my cell phone and told me he loved the book," Estrich says. "He said he thought the book was particularly effective among the chatterers — the inside Washington crowd. He said there was just one line he didn't like: the part where I said he should be sent to the Middle East to keep him out of trouble. I laughed and told him it was supposed to be funny. He said this time he wasn't going to get into trouble."

And what was Hillary Clinton's response?

"She came up and hugged me when she saw me at a party in Washington," Estrich says. "That to me says she is very pleased."



— Gilien Silsby

Public interest pioneer

Dick Rothschild '75 has been a singular force over three decades in public interest law

When Richard “Dick” Rothschild ’75 was a USC Law student in the early 1970s, there were no summer grants or scholarships for public service work. The Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) would not even exist for another decade.

“There just wasn’t the consciousness about public interest law then, like there is today,” Rothschild says.

With assistance from then-USC Law Dean Dorothy Nelson LL.M. ’56, Rothschild — who wanted to explore options outside of private practice — secured a clerkship with California Supreme Court Associate Justice Stanley Mosk immediately after graduation. A year later, Rothschild answered an ad for a staff attorney with the Western Center on Law and Poverty; he has been there ever since.

“The type of work the Western Center did then appealed to me, and it still does,” he says. “It’s very rewarding; it’s intellectually stimulating. You work with great people and great lawyers, and when everything works well, you make a difference.”

The nonprofit organization represents low-income residents on housing, welfare and health care issues. It also works to improve access to the courts for low-income citizens. In 1984, Rothschild became the center’s director of litigation, a position that allows him to supervise and litigate suits in both state and federal courts. His role also enables him to stay involved in all three of the center’s practice areas, which “keeps things interesting,” says Rothschild, recipient of the 1995 PILF Outstanding Graduate Award for his decades-long commitment to public service.

Working on a statewide scale, Rothschild and the WCLP’s nine other attorneys often handle cases that have far-reaching impact. Those headed by Rothschild include *Hunt v. Superior Court* in 1999, in which the California Supreme Court ruled that counties may not deny medical care to people with incomes at or above the general assistance grant amount, requiring instead that assistance be based on the ability to pay.

In another case, *Nelson v. Board of Supervisors*, Rothschild defended the rights of the homeless in San Diego County, where



legal aid applicants were required to provide a valid residential address, in effect denying the homeless any general assistance. The case went all the way to the Court of Appeal, which ruled that counties may not deny homeless citizens general aid because they lack a permanent address.

WCLP Executive Director Pegine Grayson ’87 says Rothschild — one of the state’s foremost experts on attorneys’ fees awards in public interest cases — is a virtual human Westlaw database, able to recite the facts, legal theories, authoring judges, names and even the official citations of an endless stream of landmark cases that impact his client community.

“Dick has a brilliant legal mind,” Grayson says, “one that helps him cut quickly to the heart of a legal matter and devise the most effective strategy for success.”

— Lori Stuenkel



For the children

Andrea Ramos '92 seeks to help youth fulfill their potential

Five years after graduating from USC Law, Andrea Ramos '92 landed on the public service career path she had envisioned as a student.

Ramos — who was involved in USC's Public Interest Law Foundation and the Post-Conviction Justice Project — says she knew she wanted to practice public interest law full time, but she also needed to take care of student loans.

After graduation, she spent five years in business litigation at Tuttle & Taylor, choosing the firm because it would allow her to take pro bono cases. She also found a structured learning environment that was so supportive she would recommend her career path to other public service-minded lawyers.

"Starting out at a private firm was great experience for me," Ramos says. "It also was a really good way to get acquainted with different agencies."

In fact, Ramos became familiar with Public Counsel — the nation's largest public interest volunteer organization — by doing pro bono work alongside attorneys such as USC Law Professor Niels Frenzen. Ramos joined Public Counsel in 1997 as a staff attorney and worked for seven years in the school-based legal assistance project/teen legal clinic. Last year, she was named directing attorney of the Children's Rights Project.

"Clearly her heart and her head were interested in doing that type of work full time, and she was able to transition from the

for-profit world to the nonprofit world," Frenzen says. "She's an extremely dedicated lawyer, and she's a great asset for Public Counsel. She's smart and devoted to her work."

In addition to the school-based clinics, the Children's Rights Project includes 12 service areas, eight attorneys and three social workers. The clinics, located at middle and high schools, are consistently packed with students and their families who are facing legal issues ranging from immigration to child custody.

"It's a very successful program. We're just booked when we go in there," Ramos says.

The rewards of helping so many children and families truly hits home when Ramos looks back on some of her strongest successes, such as AB540, the state bill passed in 2001 that allows all California students to pay in-state tuition when attending state universities. Until that time, many students who were brought into the country illegally were, in effect, barred from attending state universities because they were forced to pay out-of-state tuition, which is significantly more expensive.

"Students would often discover — at the moment of applying to college — that they were undocumented," Ramos says. "They just didn't know. It was completely heart-wrenching to talk to these kids, who were often straight-A, honor roll students, and have to tell them, 'You can go to college, but you will have to pay about \$30,000 a year.'"

Ramos flew with a group of students to Sacramento to testify before the State Assembly in support of the bill.

"For some of the kids, it was difficult to come forward because there is a stigma to being here illegally," Ramos says. "But they thought it was important, so they spoke up."

— Lori Stuenkel



Deep-seated . passion

Activist Nancy Cervantes '89 felt called to make a difference through the law

By the time Nancy Cervantes '89 entered USC Law, she already had a well-established career in public service.

She discovered a passion for immigrants' rights during the late 1970s, working with migrant and seasonal farm workers in the Santa Cruz area. She also closely followed the United States' support of the El Salvadoran government during that country's brutal civil war.

"That was when I experienced my political awakening, you could say," says Cervantes, who then joined the solidarity movement.

Cervantes moved back to her native Southern California in 1980 and got a job as legal secretary, then office manager, with the National Center for Immigrants' Rights, a provider of free legal services to low-income residents. There she learned first-hand the issues facing the large number of Central Americans immigrating to Los Angeles to escape turmoil. At 32 years old, Cervantes decided she could make an even bigger difference by becoming a lawyer. Her work and political experience gained her entry to USC Law, even though she lacked an undergraduate degree.

"I worked with some great attorneys, and I learned you can do lots of different things in public interest law," Cervantes says.

Cervantes joined the law school at a time when public interest law was gaining momentum. In 1987, a group of students formed the Public Interest Law Foundation, and Cervantes was one of the first to receive PILF support. In fact, she was awarded a Sydney and Audrey Irmas scholarship, as well as two summer grants from PILF that funded her work with immigrants and day laborers.

Since becoming a lawyer, Cervantes has stayed in public interest law, for the most part working with groups that allow her to promote immigrants' rights. She also spent five years working for

former Los Angeles City Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg, now a member of the California State Assembly, in some of the poorest areas of the city.

In 2002, Cervantes joined Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS), which serves low-income residents throughout Los Angeles County. As a managing attorney, she oversees workers' rights, community development and immigration advocacy. Much of her work focuses on policy advocacy on behalf of low-wage immigrant workers and the re-entry rights of individuals coming out of the penal system. She also is working on two state bills designed to protect household and car wash workers.

USC Law Associate Dean Lisa Mead '89, a PILF co-founder, speaks highly of her law school classmate and former Public Counsel colleague.

"Nancy has been a tireless advocate for immigrants and low-income workers," Mead says. "She is a passionate and dynamic human rights lawyer and has consistently been a fantastic mentor to our students."

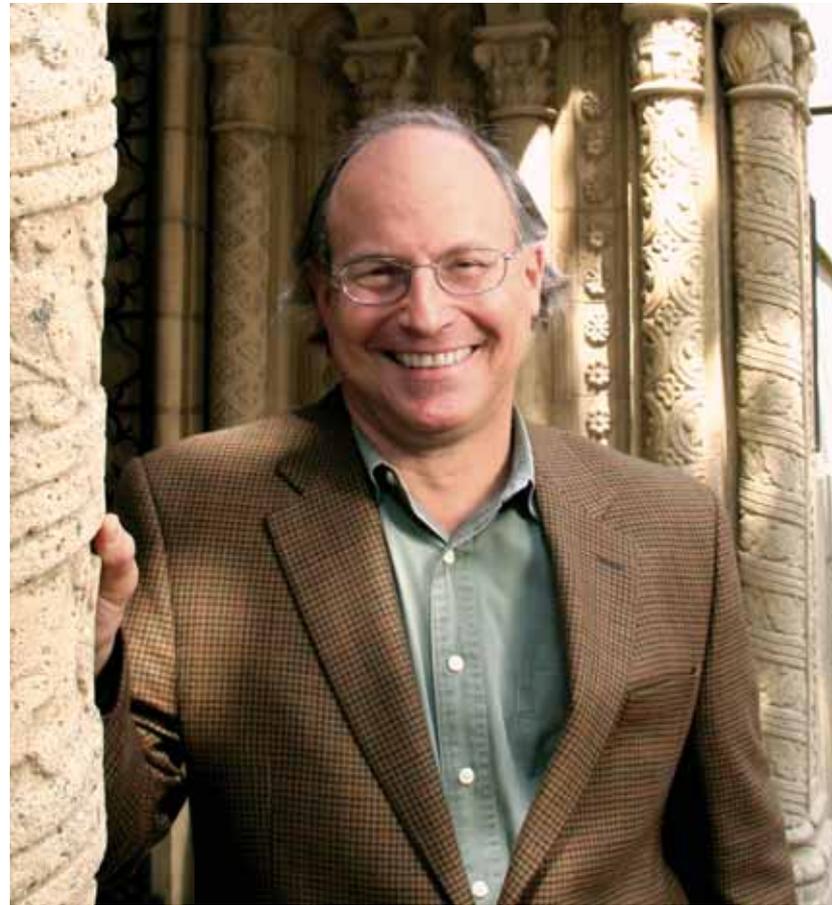
Cervantes — who has been recognized with PILF's Outstanding Graduate Award — also oversees community education work for NLS. Because outreach is a vital component of serving an under-represented population, she partners with churches, schools and other community organizations, and has become a fluent Spanish speaker to get the word out.

"It's important for people to understand their options," she says. "A lot of things with the law and the legal system are really intimidating. Part of my job is to ensure that people learn about their rights and how to vindicate them. NLS works very closely with our client communities to make that happen."

— Lori Stuenkel

Staying power

Jim Preis '78 continues mental health advocacy work begun during his student days



Jim Preis '78 found himself the executive director — and sole employee — of a fledgling public service agency four months after passing the bar. Twenty-seven years later, he remains executive director of Mental Health Advocacy Services, now with 17 staff members and a budget that has increased 60-fold.

MHAS is a private, nonprofit organization that provides free legal services to people with mental and developmental disabilities. Preis first volunteered with MHAS when it was founded in 1977; he was a second-year student at USC Law. He continued to volunteer after graduation and, when the director resigned in 1979, Preis eagerly stepped up.

“I was interested in the human mind and how people thought, and when I got to law school, the most interesting subject to me by far was constitutional law,” recalls Preis, who majored in philosophy as an undergraduate.

The balance between autonomy and dependence on state decision-making, particularly for people with mental disabilities, immediately captured Preis' attention and has kept it for the past three decades. And at USC Law, Preis says he learned more than just the fundamentals in his mental health law class.

“It also provided the inspiration to make a difference in the field,” he says.

USC's Public Interest Law Foundation honored Preis with the Outstanding Graduate Award in 1994 for his work with MHAS, which helps about 3,000 children and adults each year. Among

Preis' ongoing projects is *Emily Q. v. Bonta*, a class action challenging the state's failure to provide therapeutic behavioral services to children with mental disabilities.

In other cases, MHAS works one-on-one with clients, such as mentally ill homeless people who encounter housing discrimination.

“There's a lot of bias against people with mental disabilities in the community, a lot of prejudice, so we've focused our work toward eliminating the discrimination,” Preis says. “We try to balance our systemwide work with the individual representation of clients. That way, when we do system work, it's informed by real people and real cases.”

Preis describes this as an exciting time to advocate for the mental health community, which is undergoing major changes following the 2004 passage of Proposition 63 to expand California's mental health service programs for children, adults and seniors. The system is shifting toward making the client the center of its services — a much-needed overhaul, according to Preis.

“There's a very strong client movement right now,” says Preis, who also teaches mental health law as an adjunct professor at USC Law. “It's great to advocate on behalf of individuals, to get them services they really need. We are trying to make the system work better for the people we serve, responding to the individuals' needs so they don't fall through the cracks.”

— Lori Stuenkel



Karen Lash (center) with USC Law students at the Mississippi Center for Justice.

Visit the following web sites for ideas on how to lend your services to survivors of Hurricane Katrina:

Common Ground — www.commongroundrelief.org
 Louisiana Bar Association — www.lsba.org
 Mississippi Center for Justice — www.mscenterforjustice.org
 Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project — www.mvlp.net

Call to service

By Karen A. Lash '87

I arrived in Gulfport, Miss., 13 days after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast. I planned to help the Mississippi Center for Justice (MCJ) coordinate the efforts of the lawyers and law schools standing ready to help.

I was not prepared for what I saw: chaos, devastation and a complete absence of government assistance. Nearly two weeks after Katrina, no one was coordinating a relief effort in one of the poorest communities along the coast.

Not one resident or local official had seen a single FEMA representative. Electricity and phone service were practically non-existent, and bureaucratic hurdles kept cell phone service from being restored quickly. Of the few people with access to a working phone, none had successfully completed the federal "Registration Intake" via the 1-800 number given to victims to apply for assistance.

Rather than address the legal issues that would surely emerge, we spent that first trip traveling from one makeshift shelter to the next, helping to coordinate deliveries of food, water and ice.

When I returned two weeks later, I was inspired beyond description by the spirit of optimism and soulful generosity of people who had lost their homes and communities — but appalled by the excruciatingly slow federal response and the tales of people who were taking advantage of the most vulnerable among us.

Bureaucracy still reigned. Spotty Internet reception at Gulfport's just-opened Disaster Recovery Center made it difficult to apply for FEMA assistance; FEMA wouldn't take handwritten applications; and food stamps were only available at Wiggins, an impossible 20 miles away for residents without transportation.

Tenants were returning home to find locks changed and apartments rented to people who could pay higher rents. Possessions, including children's toys and medications, were being confiscated allegedly to cover lost rent. Insurance claims were being denied when damage was declared caused by water (not covered) rather than wind (covered). Scammers took full payment for new roofs from desperate homeowners and then disappeared.

As I write this, many months after Katrina, things are both worse and better. Signs of renewal — and the opportunity to rebuild and improve upon what preexisted — are palpable. But the promises that insurance companies would pay, that FEMA would not evict families in hotels until there were alternatives, that trailers would be delivered quickly, and that debris would be cleared have given way to different realities. Many neighborhoods look like time has stood still since August 30.

Legal problems are now more complex: People often need help with a combination of issues that include unemployment, taxes, denial of health insurance, probate, predatory lending scams, disappearing roofers, FEMA benefits, insurance and bankruptcy. New Orleans has remained in the spotlight to some degree, but the devastation of hundreds of small communities along the Gulf Coast is virtually invisible to an American public whose interest has waned with the media coverage.

On a positive note, the tiny number of nonprofit lawyers on the coast has been buoyed by the unbroken promises of law students, professors and attorneys who understand the difference legal assistance can make in the lives of hurricane victims and who support the legal aid response through donations of money and time. USC Law students were among the hundreds of young people who spent their spring break in Mississippi and Louisiana. Both the hands-on assistance and the moral support they provided were crucial, yet there is much more we can do. These communities can rebuild — with our help.

Karen A. Lash '87, a former associate dean at USC Law, now lives in Washington, D.C. Thanks to funding from the ABA Business Law Section, she has transitioned from volunteer to consultant for the Mississippi Center for Justice, helping to coordinate national pro bono opportunities to assist Katrina victims in Mississippi.



SC HAS ALWAYS RELIED ON THE GENEROSITY OF OUR FRIENDS TO SUPPORT THE UNIVERSITY'S MISSION OF EXCELLENCE. ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR WAYS TO MAKE YOUR SUPPORT FELT IS WITH A GIFT ANNUITY. NOT ONLY ARE THERE AN ARRAY OF TAX BENEFITS,

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higher **education** with your
fondness for higher **returns.**

BUT YOU CAN ALSO RECEIVE STEADY, SECURE PAYMENTS FOR LIFE — OFTEN WITH HIGHER YIELDS THAN THOSE YOU'D RECEIVE FROM OTHER INVESTMENTS. YOU'LL EVEN ENJOY THE REWARDS OF GETTING OLDER, WITH RATES THAT INCREASE BASED UPON YOUR AGE. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SPECIFIC BENEFITS TO YOUR SITUATION, CONTACT JOHN G. "TOM" TOMLINSON JR. AT 213.740.6908 OR MATTHEW SHAKESPEARE AT 213.740.2648.



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Tuesday and Wednesday, June 6-7

Junior Scholars Conference,
USC Law

Saturday, June 10

Reunion 2006,
University Park Campus

Monday, July 10

Summer Law & English Orientation,
USC Law

Monday through Wednesday, Aug. 14-16

Graduate & International
Programs Orientation,
USC Law

Friday, Aug. 18

J.D. Student Orientation,
Town and Gown

Saturday, Sept. 9

2006 Institute on Entertainment
Law and Business,
University Park Campus
(Continuing Legal Education program)

Saturday, Sept. 16

Annual Fund Football Event,
University Park Campus

Friday, Nov. 17

32nd Annual Probate and Trust Conference,
Downtown Los Angeles
(Continuing Legal Education program)

Monday, Dec. 4

Bar Admission Ceremony,
University Park Campus

Thursday, Dec. 7

2006 Institute for Corporate Counsel,
Westin Bonaventure Hotel
(Continuing Legal Education program)

