1} Law Firm Model Broken, Expert Says

>>A revolution in the big firm business model, spurred in large part by the recession, is just beginning, says Bruce MacEwen, a lawyer who publishes a website dedicated to examining the economics of law firms.

"The economic model of big law is showing terrific stresses and strains," said MacEwen, a lawyer and consultant to law firms on strategic and economic issues, and founder and editor of the website Adam Smith, Esq. "It's hard on partners; it's hard on associates; clients don't like it. There have to be smarter ways to run this business."
Read more about MacEwen's analysis of big law firms.

2) Woman Freed by Student Speaks to Law School

>>A woman who was represented by a USC Law student after spending 29 years in prison for sitting in a car while her husband robbed and killed a shop owner shared her story with a crowd of 165 students and parents at USC's Trojan Parents Weekend. The woman - Connie Keel - gave a heart-felt talk about her time before, during and after prison. She was joined by Adam Reich, the third-year law student who represented her, and Prof. Heidi Rummel, co-director of USC Law's Post-Conviction Justice Project clinical program.

"I still very clearly remember the robbery," Keel said. "I was sitting in the middle front seat of the car and I felt paralyzed. I was petrified. For a moment, I thought about driving away and leaving them there. But I didn't know how I was going to get to my husband's parents house and get my children before he found me. I couldn't figure out how to do that, and I thought he would kill me.

"So, I sat there and listened to them shoot those guns, and I knew they were killing the clerk. I was frozen. I just couldn't believe this was happening."

Read more about Connie's story.

3) Challenges in Copyright Law

>>Whether it's downloading a song through iTunes, watching a favorite show on Hulu, or using BitTorrent to download computer software, students on university campuses across the nation are undoubtedly familiar with some of the major players and problems in the ever-expanding field of copyright law.

USC Law students packed Room 7 to listen to several top industry minds tackle "Current and Future Challenges in Copyright Law" on Oct. 20.

The event was presented by the USC Federalist Society, the USC Intellectual Property and Technology Law Society, the USC International Law Society and the Gould/Marshall Alliance. It was supported by a grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

Read more about the copyright law conversation.

4) Former USC Law Professor Dies
Former USC Law Professor Robert S. Thompson, remembered by faculty members as a supportive colleague and mentor, died Oct. 2 after a short illness.

After graduating in 1942 from USC Law, where he served as editor-in-chief of the *Southern California Law Review*, Thompson served in the Army Air Force for four years, then entered private practice.

In 1965, he was appointed to the Los Angeles Municipal Court, where he served for one year. He then served two years in Los Angeles Superior Court before being appointed to the California Court of Appeal, where he served until 1979, when he joined USC Law. Thompson taught at the law school for 11 years and wrote the textbook *Remedies: Damages, Equity and Restitution*. He retired in 1990.

Read more about the late Prof. Thompson.

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5) Mediation as a Means to Justice

>>On an occasion that marked the 40th anniversary of her installment as dean of the USC Gould School of Law, the Honorable Dorothy W. Nelson presented the 2009 Justice Lester W. Roth Lecture Oct. 13. Nelson, a pioneer in advocating for mediation and arbitration, addressed the transcendent norms needed to achieve justice in the world, and the role alternative dispute resolution - or "appropriate" dispute resolution, as she calls it - can play in resolving conflict.

"Justice, to me, means to consider the welfare of the community as one's own," Nelson said. "It means to regard humanity as a single individual and as one's own self as a member of the corporeal form and to know of a certainty that if pain or injury afflicts any member of that body, it must inevitably result in suffering for all the rest."

Read more about Judge Nelson's Roth Lecture.

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6) Upcoming events: Alumni Mixers, CLE Events, Holiday Parties

NOVEMBER 19: ALUMNI MIXER
Join your fellow USC Law alumni for a mixer at Morton's in downtown L.A. [735 South Figueroa St. 90017] beginning at 6 p.m. Complimentary appetizers will be provided. Parking validation at 7th & Figueroa Plaza will be available.
For more information, visit http://law.usc.edu/alumni/events/receptions.cfm.
To RSVP, contact Assistant Director of Development Brooke Duebler at 213.743.1833 or bduebler@law.usc.edu

NOVEMBER 20: 35TH ANNUAL TRUST AND ESTATE CONFERENCE
Continuing Legal Education at USC Law presents a day of speakers, presentations and networking opportunities at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

Learn more about the Trust and Estate Conference.

NOVEMBER 20-21: CONFERENCE ON EMPIRICAL LEGAL STUDIES
USC Law will host the fourth annual Conference on Empirical Legal Studies Friday, Nov. 20, and Saturday, Nov. 21. The conference will feature over 100 original empirical and experimental papers by experts from a diverse range of fields, including law, economics, political science, and psychology. Topics range from Administrative Law and Corporate Governance to Medical Malpractice and Tax. For more information, go to the conference website.

NOVEMBER 30: BAR ADMISSION CEREMONY
The USC Law Bar Admission Ceremony for USC Law alumni will be held at Town and Gown from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 1: INSTITUTE FOR CORPORATE COUNSEL
USC Law Continuing Legal Education presents a day of learning and networking opportunities at the Jonathan Club in downtown Los Angeles. California State Controller John Chiang is the keynote speaker.

Learn more about the Institute for Corporate Counsel.

DECEMBER 3: YOUNG ALUMNI UGLY SWEATER PARTY - WESTSIDE
All USC Law alumni are invited to help usher in the holiday season with an Ugly Sweater Party on L.A.’s Westside. Chris LeVeque ’07 hosts the gathering from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. in his home at 11355 Missouri Avenue, 90025 (cross-streets: Sawtelle Blvd. and Santa Monica Blvd.). Fondue, other appetizers and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided; BYOB. An ugly holiday sweater contest caps the evening. For more information, visit http://law.usc.edu/alumni/events/receptions.cfm. To RSVP, contact Assistant Director of Development Brooke Duebler at 213.743.1833 or bduebler@law.usc.edu.

DECEMBER 9: YOUNG ALUMNI HOLIDAY PARTY - ORANGE
COUNTY
All USC Law alumni are invited to celebrate the holiday season with a special holiday party in Orange County. Hosted by Shadie Berenji ’04 and Sean Kundu ’07, this gathering will take place from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. in the Sports Club and Game Room at their apartment complex, The Village at Irvine Spectrum [50 Prism, Irvine 92618]. On offer will be holiday appetizers, chocolate fountain, pool table, shuffleboard, foosball, poker tables and two plasma TVs. Bring your own alcohol. For more information, visit http://law.usc.edu/alumni/events/receptions.cfm. To RSVP, contact Assistant Director of Development Brooke Duebler at 213.743.1833 or bduebler@law.usc.edu.

DECEMBER 10: REGIONAL ALUMNI MIXER - SAN DIEGO
Mix and mingle with fellow USC Law alumni at Enoteca Style in San Diego [1445 India Street (between Ash & Beech) 92101] beginning at 6:00 p.m. Complimentary appetizers will be provided, and you can enjoy $4/glass wine specials all night. Parking is available for free on the street or for $5 in nearby parking lots. For more information, visit http://law.usc.edu/alumni/events/receptions.cfm. To RSVP, contact Assistant Director of Development Brooke Duebler at 213.743.1833 or bduebler@law.usc.edu.

LINKS
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