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1) Elyn Saks Wins MacArthur Foundation Award

>> USC Law Professor and Associate Dean Elyn Saks has been selected as a 2009 fellow of the MacArthur Foundation. Saks is the first fellow selected from the faculty of USC and one of only 24 selected for this year's awards.

The prestigious fellowship, known informally as the "genius grant," provides each recipient with a $500,000 "no strings attached" award over five years. The awards were announced by the Chicago-based John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Saks is a nationally recognized scholar in mental health law, criminal law and the ethical dimensions of medical research. She
also has battled schizophrenia and acute psychosis. In 2007, after decades of hiding her illness, Saks published a memoir about her struggles and successes in *The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey Through Madness*. The book won far-reaching acclaim from literary critics and advocacy groups.

Read more about Prof. Saks' MacArthur Foundation Award.

2) It's Official: USC Law Has a New Website

>> USC Law officially has a new website, which you can find at [http://law.usc.edu/](http://law.usc.edu/). On October 1, the site permanently replaced the previous design, which had been up for a little more than two years. For the next month, the website will retain a "feedback" button in the upper right corner. Your thoughts on the new site are welcomed!

3) New Alumni Mentor Program

>> USC Law's Career Services Office (CSO) has announced a new Alumni Mentor Program for second- and third-year law students. In the tradition of the law school's annual 1L Mentor Lunch, this new volunteer opportunity will allow 2Ls and 3Ls to develop meaningful mentor relationships with USC Law alumni working in a practice area and employer-setting in line with their career goals. Students will learn from the mentor's career progression and experience while gaining valuable advice and guidance.

The first year for the Alumni Mentor Program will consist of a small, pilot program that will allow CSO staff to closely monitor and advise the students participating in the program. The Alumni Mentor Program will be part of a larger student program the CSO is offering for the first time this year called the Intensive Career Management Program (ICMP). The ICMP provides students with the opportunity to work closely with a career counselor in the CSO in a more structured manner than the traditional career counseling model. The goal of the program is to motivate students to develop a more active job search strategy.

If you are interested in serving as an alumni mentor, please complete the online registration form at: [https://mylaw.usc.edu/survey/takeSurvey.asp?surveyID=177](https://mylaw.usc.edu/survey/takeSurvey.asp?surveyID=177). The deadline to register is Friday, Oct. 23, 2009. Alumni will be notified in early November once they have been matched with a student.

If you have questions about the program, please call (213) 740-7397 or e-mail...
4) The Evolution of Law Firms

>> As law students venture into the professional world amid recession, USC Law Adjunct Professor Bryant Danner last month kicked off a lunchtime discussion series, "The Evolution of Large Law Firms: Effects of the Storm."

Danner is asking the question: Is this a major change of direction or a minor detour? Will firms actually create a new business model, or simply revert to their former ways once the downturn changes direction?

Read more about the discussion series.

5) Supreme Court Preview

>> Three constitutional law experts discussed a handful of the most important cases the U.S. Supreme Court will hear during the 2009 Term at a USC Law event. Theodore B. Olson, former U.S. Solicitor General; Pamela Karlan, Stanford Law professor; and Rebecca Brown, USC Law professor, examined several high-profile cases involving criminal law, juvenile sentencing and First Amendment rights. Freedom of religion, animal cruelty and gun ownership also were addressed. Elizabeth Garrett, USC Law professor and an expert on law and politics, moderated the discussion.

Read about their discussion.

6) Making the Case for Clerkships

>>"I always say that my clerkship was the best year of my legal career," said Dave Walsh '85, a partner with Paul Hastings and the chair of USC Law's Board of Councilors' Clerkship Committee. He spoke to a crowd of more than 100 first-year law students at the annual Fall Clerkship Reception last week.

The annual event is held to encourage students to pursue judicial clerkships after graduation. Sponsored by six law firms - Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Jones Day, Morrison & Foerster, Munger, Tolles & Olson, Paul Hastings and Sidley Austin - the evening featured several guest speakers who extolled the value their clerkships have had on their careers.
Read more about the clerkships event.

7) National Pro Bono Celebration

>> USC Law's Office of Public Service (OPS) and the Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) are working together to promote the ABA's annual National Pro Bono Celebration, October 25 to 31. Activities for the week include a Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) discussion and opening of a display highlighting the pro bono efforts of USC Law alumni working in private and public interest law and student participation in PILF clinics.

OPS encourages all USC Law alumni to share news of the pro bono work they are doing. Also, the office seeks alumni interested in speaking with students about balancing private sector legal practice with pro bono work. Please send inquiries and information on your pro bono work to ops@law.usc.edu.

Learn more about the National Pro Bono Day Celebration.

8) Upcoming events: Roth Lecture, Institute on Entertainment Law and Business, Life After Prison

OCTOBER 13: ROTH LECTURE BY FORMER USC LAW DEAN, JUDGE DOROTHY NELSON
Judge Dorothy Nelson, former dean of USC Law, delivers the Justice Lester W. Roth Lecture at 4:00 p.m. at Town and Gown on the USC campus. The event marks the 40th anniversary of Judge Nelson's inauguration as dean. For more information or to RSVP, e-mail events@law.usc.edu.

OCTOBER 17: 2009 INSTITUTE ON ENTERTAINMENT LAW AND BUSINESS
Continuing Legal Education at USC Law, together with the Beverly Hills Bar Association, present a full day of speakers, panels and networking opportunities at the USC campus. Can't-miss speakers and topics include Bob Iger, president and CEO, The Walt Disney Company, in a fireside luncheon chat with Bruce Ramer; the heads of four major talent agencies, Jeffrey Berg, Jim Berkus, Ari Emanuel, and David O'Connor, with Karen Stuart; Irving Azoff, CEO of Ticketmaster Entertainment, Inc.; and more than 15 partners from the top entertainment law firms in the business and top in house counsel. CLE and CPE credit offered, including legal ethics credit for lawyers. This year's theme - "Lemons to Lemonade: Squeezing the Upside in Troubled Economic Times" - will focus on how to create upside in a down market.
Learn more about the Institute on Entertainment Law and Business.

OCTOBER 23: LIFE AFTER PRISON
Join USC students, parents and alumni for a special Trojan Parents Weekend event. "Life After Prison: How a Woman and USC Law Student Came Together" will feature Adam Reich '11 speaking with Connie Keel, the woman he helped free on parole after she had served 29 years in prison for sitting in a car while her abusive husband robbed and killed a shop owner. The event will be held from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Room 3 of USC Law.

{SAVE THE DATE}
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.

{SAVE THE DATE}
NOVEMBER 20-21: CONFERENCE ON EMPIRICAL LEGAL STUDIES
USC Law will host the fourth annual Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (CELS) on Friday, Nov. 20, and Saturday, Nov. 21. The conference will feature original empirical and experimental legal scholarship by experts from a diverse range of fields and is jointly organized by the CELS board and the USC Gould School of Law. CELS encourages and develops empirical and experimental scholarship on legal issues by providing scholars with an opportunity to present and discuss their work with an interdisciplinary group of people interested in the empirical study of law.

Read more about the conference.

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

{SAVE THE DATE}
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.

Learn more about the Institute for Corporate Counsel.

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LINKS
>>myLAW:  http://mylaw2.usc.edu/login.cfm
>>ALUMNI WEB SITE:  http://mylaw2.usc.edu/alumni/
>>GIVE BACK TO USC LAW:  http://mylaw2.usc.edu/alumni/giving/
>>CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION:
http://mylaw2.usc.edu/why/academics/cle/
>>ALUMNI CAREER SERVICES:
http://lawweb.usc.edu/careers/aluminfo.cfm
>>NEWSROOM:  http://mylaw2.usc.edu/news/
>>SUBSCRIBE TO eNEWS (OR UNSUBSCRIBE): To add, change or remove your e-mail address from the USC LAW eNEWS list, or for more information on the newsletter, e-mail alumni@law.usc.edu. Requests must include your full name.
>>SUGGESTIONS? E-mail your suggestions for future newsletters to enews@law.usc.edu.