

# USC MAGAZINE Law

FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF THE USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW ISSUE 12 | SPRING/SUMMER 2018



## LOS ANGELES AS URBAN IDEAL

The prime location for  
learning real estate law

USC Gould



PHOTO BY MIKEL HEALEY

**His friends and family agree: Phil Nicholson, a Double Trojan who graduated from Gould in 1961, was devoted to the law school and to Cox, Castle & Nicholson, the premier real estate law firm where he was a founding partner.**

Which is why I think Phil would have been thrilled to learn that his law firm colleagues — many of whom identify as UCLA Bruins — have come together to establish a scholarship here in Phil's memory that supports students with an interest in real estate law.

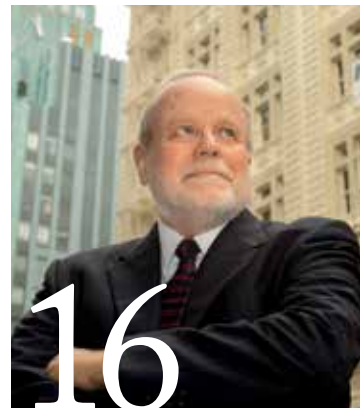
That's the same Trojan Family spirit that I see embodied in the alumni who return to Prof. George Lefcoe's classroom each semester to share their knowledge with future lawyers. Over the past five decades, George has shepherded the careers of countless Gould students with a passion for real estate law. And with some students, the connection is so strong that they become lifelong friends. For instance, Amy Forbes (JD 1984) invited George to her wedding.

*That's the same Trojan Family spirit that I see embodied in the alumni who return to Prof. George Lefcoe's classroom each semester to share their knowledge with future lawyers.*

It's the same spirit that I see in the Lee Family — Jaime (JD 2009), Phill (JD 2012) and Garrett (JD 2014) — all Double Trojans who run Jamison, a family-owned real estate empire based in L.A.'s Koreatown. All of the Lees give back to the USC community, whether it's serving on the USC Board of Trustees (Jaime), or the board of the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association (Phill) or volunteering to help our Career Services Office (Garrett).

Paging through this issue, you'll notice a strong Angeleno focus. Fairly recently, my family and I made this lively city our home, and I'm constantly discovering reasons to appreciate L.A. I've come to agree with George Lefcoe, who says that our school's proximity to downtown, with its large concentration of jobs and vibrant real estate development scene, gives us a "strategic advantage" over our local counterparts.

On a housekeeping note, we are in the process of refreshing the look of the law school building. I hope that in the coming months, you'll pay us a visit and see our improvements for yourself. I think you'll be impressed.





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### 8 L.A. AS AN URBAN IDEAL

For Prof. George Lefcoe, there is nowhere better than Los Angeles for trying out new real estate ideas.



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# USC MAGAZINE Law

**SPRING | SUMMER 2018**

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 Gould School of Law



**USC** University of  
Southern California

## GIFT TO SAKS INSTITUTE SUPPORTS ‘NEXT CHAPTER’

The USC Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy and Ethics — created and led by Elyn Saks, the MacArthur Foundation’s “genius grant” recipient and USC law professor who has inspired millions by sharing her struggle with schizophrenia — recently received a \$3 million gift from the Doris Bry Trust.

“We read Elyn’s memoir, we watched her TED Talk more than once, we read about her various symposia, and we came to admire her capacity for conveying schizophrenia as a condition that didn’t necessarily preclude someone from having a full life.”

—Amelia “Lee” Marks, *Doris Bry trustee*

The gift recognizes the significant achievements of USC’s Saks Institute, said Amelia “Lee” Marks, a Bry trustee. Bry, a leading authority on the works of Alfred Stieglitz and Georgia O’Keeffe, worked for *Time-Life* magazine as a science researcher and was an agent for Georgia O’Keeffe.

“As trustees of the Doris Bry Trust, we were given a general mandate to support qualified charities in the field of mental health. In our research for this particular grant, we learned



of Elyn Saks, and her story resonated with our mission,” said Marks. “We read Elyn’s memoir, we watched her TED Talk more than once, we read about her various symposia, and we came to admire her capacity for conveying schizophrenia as a condition that didn’t necessarily preclude someone from having a full life.”

Saks, a professor at USC Gould since 1989, said she is thrilled and honored for the Institute to receive the gift.

“This will truly change how the Saks Institute is able to study and make policy recommendations for those who suffer from mental illness,” said Saks. “I am over the moon with excitement and looking forward to our next chapter.” 🚀

—Gilien Silsby

Find out more about the Saks Institute: [gould.usc.edu/centers/saks/](https://gould.usc.edu/centers/saks/)

## USC GOULD HOSTS TAX REFORM SYMPOSIUM

The USC Gould School of Law hosted a discussion, “Tax Reform: Perspectives From Across the Nation” on Oct. 25, featuring experts with Tax Analysts, the American Bar Foundation and USC.

The speakers — Edward Kleinbard of USC Gould; Sam Melehani, Southwest SALT Tax Leader; and Lee Sheppard of

Tax Notes — analyzed an effort by the U.S. Congress to implement fundamental tax reform. The experts looked at consequences for the global economy, including new risks and opportunities.

The USC event was one of several symposiums held across the country by Tax Analysts and the American Bar

Foundation. The goal is to gain a variety of perspectives on tax reform from every section of the nation. 🚀

To watch the symposium, please go to <https://youtu.be/n77HutsimXg>

## LET'S MAKE A DEAL

In February, the inaugural Pircher, Nichols & Meeks LLP Real Estate Joint Venture (JV) Challenge for the University of Southern California teamed law students with Marshall Business School students in a mock negotiations competition judged by prominent commercial real estate professionals.

The JV Challenge was started by two of PN&M's founding partners, Phillip G. Nichols, who is an adjunct professor at Gould and teaches a seminar on real estate JVs, and Steve Carey, who is a prolific author on the topic of real estate JVs. Originally structured as writing competitions at UCLA and UC Berkeley, the format at those schools was changed to a mock negotiation with coaches and judges for spring 2017. When his partners invited Danny Guggenheim (JD 2004) to serve as a coach, he jumped at the opportunity.

"The new format was a huge success at UCLA and Cal last year," he said. "and I immediately thought that it would be great for Gould and Marshall and started thinking about how to expand it to USC for this year."

Both professional schools greeted his suggestion with enthusiasm, and the JV Challenge at USC went from concept to reality in a few short months.

Students from the Real Estate Law Society of Gould School of Law joined students from the Graduate Real Estate Association of the Marshall School of Business to negotiate terms for a joint venture between a development company in need of equity capital and the investment firm seeking to partner and make a deal.

"Six teams representing the investor were on one side of the room, and the six teams representing the developer were on the other. It was a dramatic setting that worked really well," said Guggenheim, a Pircher partner. Nichols, who teaches courses at Gould on real estate joint ventures and purchase agreements, said, "This was really wonderful for the students."

Partners from PN&M were on site to coach the 48 participating students (24 from each school) beforehand and to join in a networking reception that followed. The first place team, which received a cash prize of \$2,000, included Jonathan Rabbanian (JD 2018), who has taken both of Prof. Nichols' courses. 🏆

—Traude Gomez Rhine

Find out more about USC Gould lecturer Phillip G. Nichols and Gould alumnus Danny Guggenheim JD 2004 on pages 16 and 17.

## FOLLOW THE NEED

Civil rights activist Marian Wright Edelman inspired an audience of USC students, faculty and staff when she joined the USC Gould School of Law for a panel discussion in April.

Edelman, who is the president and founder of the Children's Defense Fund, shared her story of growing up in the segregated South, her involvement in the civil rights movement and her experience as the first African-American woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar. A champion of children's healthcare, Edelman emphasized the importance of education and perseverance in the face of adversity.

She advised Gould students to "follow the need" in their legal careers and pursuit of social justice. An important aspect of this was to get involved in the local community and meet the people you are trying to help.



Other inspirational advice included: "If you see a need, don't ask why somebody doesn't do something. You ask what you can do, and then YOU do it."

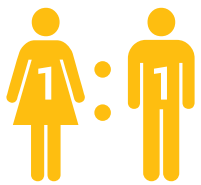
Gould Professors Camille Gear Rich and Clare Pastore participated in the discussion moderated by Alex Capron, vice dean for faculty and academic affairs. (In the summer of 1967, Capron worked for Edelman at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund Office in Mississippi.) 🏆

—Erin Bailey

Marian Wright Edelman speaks with Yasmine McMorrin from Gould's Student Support Office.

## IT'S MORE THAN LUNCH

At the annual Mentor Lunch, alumni and first-year students and second-year transfers had an opportunity to get to know each other. Alumni enjoyed talking with students about their careers and reconnecting with fellow alumni; while the students appreciated the savvy advice. Keynote speaker Amy Wan (JD 2011), founder & CEO of Sagewise, a dispute resolution platform, emphasized the importance of having a long-term networking goal. "It's about forging those connections through a long period of time; it really takes a long time to make these connections work," she said. 🍷



ratio of Trojan lawyers to JD students

# 296

number of attendees

# 2015

class best represented, with **13 MEMBERS ATTENDING**

# 1967

# 2018

earliest class year represented  
(Hon. Ronald Stovitz)



36, the record-setting number of mentor lunches that Paul Levine JD '81 has attended



## NEW CHAIR FOR USC GOULD'S BOARD OF COUNCILORS

John Iino (JD 1987), one of the nation's most respected attorneys and a steadfast champion of diversity and inclusion in the legal academy, is taking the helm of USC Gould School of Law's Board of Councilors in July.



Iino is the first Asian-American USC Gould alumnus to chair Gould's Board of Councilors. He is a partner at Reed Smith, serving as the firm's chief diversity officer and global co-chair of the firm's Japan Business Team.

"John is a well-known leader in our legal community," said Dean Andrew Guzman. "We are thrilled he will serve as chair, and we look forward to working with him to continue to offer a world-class legal education."

Iino succeeds Richard Chernick (JD 1970), who will continue to serve as a member of the Board of Councilors. "We are grateful to Rich, and we look forward to continuing to work with him," said Guzman.

"I am honored to work with Dean Guzman and the Board of Councilors to develop strategies and confront changes in the legal community," Iino said. "This is an exciting time in legal education, and USC Gould has proven to be an innovator among law schools as well as the industry as a whole." 🗡️

—*Gilien Silsby*

*Dean Andrew Guzman with John Iino, who takes the helm of the law school's Board of Councilors in July*

## GOULD QUOTABLES



*"The courts have held that the government can't coerce a local jurisdiction to enact a federal law. The federal government can't force local jurisdictions to enforce immigration laws. That's something the federal government has to do."*

Prof. **JEAN REISZ**, who co-teaches the Immigration Clinic, quoted in the *Los Angeles Times* on April 12, 2018 about a court ruling that determined federal funds cannot be withheld from municipalities that refuse to enforce federal immigration laws



*"The Republican plan privileges the wealthy — including the ones with large real estate holdings like the president — while largely ignoring the forgotten working men and women who voted for Trump. Some low- and middle-income taxpayers may initially get a small benefit from the plan, but all the individual cuts are set to expire by 2025 at the latest, and the largest gains will go to those at the top of the wealth scale."*

Excerpted from "The Tax Bill's Loopholes for the Wealthy Benefit Trump and Corker," an opinion piece by Prof. **EDWARD MCCAFFERY** for CNN.com on Dec. 18, 2017



*"Given the ambivalence of the U.S. Supreme Court's case law on whether the federal constitution provides a remedy for partisan gerrymandering, state constitutions, with their focus on electoral equality and fairness, have the promise and the potential to be an effective means to address excessively partisan redistricting."*

Excerpted from a Jan. 20, 2018 commentary by Prof. **FRANITA TOLSON** for *The Hill* on how the Supreme Court deals with cases involving allegations of partisan gerrymandering

## SHOWING UP FOR VETERANS

At USC Gould, students regularly devote their time to provide low-income U.S. veterans assistance with a breadth of civil matters, such as family law and landlord-tenant issues, as well as discharge upgrades. Each month, students from the Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) partner with the Veterans Legal Institute to conduct the USC/VLI Veterans Legal Clinic.

Matthew Saria (Class of 2019), president of PILF, said that PILF decided to launch an on-campus veterans' clinic for myriad of reasons. "I have family members who served in the military," Saria said. "So I know firsthand how veterans deserve as much support as we can give them. Plus, assisting veterans allows students to work on a wide range of issues, deepening their knowledge."

In October, 20 law student volunteers served 12 veteran clients, while the Nov. 8 clinic drew 17 student volunteers who also assisted 12 veteran clients on legal issues including: civil and family law matters, military benefits, discharge status upgrades and expungements.

PILF trains the students before they conduct work in the clinic. Saria was especially gratified to see so many students



volunteer their time during "No Fun November," as most are vigorously studying for their end-of-semester exams.

The turnout, he said, is a testament to the culture at USC Gould. "The school really emphasizes public interest, from the public interest certificate to the scholars program. It's a great time to be a public interest student here." 🇺🇸

—Anne Bergman

To learn more, contact: [PILF@lawmail.usc.edu](mailto:PILF@lawmail.usc.edu).

*U.S. Army vet Ray Simon thanks student volunteers from the USC/VLI Veterans Legal Clinic.*

## HAVE DOCUMENTS, WILL TRAVEL



Monique Magbuhos wanted to see the City of Lights. The only problem was she didn't know if she could travel to Paris, France, without a U.S. passport.

Born in the Philippines, Magbuhos immigrated with

her family when she was only 2 years old, but had never undertaken the process of becoming a citizen. She knew it was complicated and expensive.

So, when she learned that USC Gould's Immigration Clinic was offering free assistance to members

of the University community seeking U.S. citizenship, she didn't hesitate. The program, which was launched in 2017 thanks to funding and support from USC Provost Michael Quick, was widely publicized on campus and in the USC communities, and immediately grabbed Magbuhos' attention.

Magbuhos, who works in the USC Gould Budget Office, met with one of the 35 volunteers who in recent months have helped some 200 Angelenos complete their naturalization documents and citizenship applications. Immigration Clinic Co-Directors Professors Niels Frenzen and Jean Reisz oversee their efforts.

In Magbuhos' case, clinic volunteers delivered some unexpected good news. Because her parents had become U.S. citizens before her 18th birthday, it

turns out she had become a citizen automatically. With that hurdle out of the way, clinic staff member Jennifer Macias helped her complete the U.S. passport application.

But the moment that made 40-year-old Magbuhos "feel American" the most was when she registered to vote. "I felt like a foreigner before," she said. "Now I feel like I belong somewhere. And I know that being American means that voting is my responsibility. Now I won't have any excuses to not vote, and I'm looking forward to my first election!" 🇺🇸

—Anne Bergman

Find out more about the Immigration Clinic's Citizenship Project at [gould.law/immigration](http://gould.law/immigration)

*Monique Magbuhos, who works in Gould's Budget Office, with passport in hand.*



## WAGING JUSTICE

Founded 10 years ago by two 2005 USC Gould graduates, Matt Sirolly and Melvin Yee, the Wage Justice Center (WJC) has recovered more than \$14 million in wages for over 6,000 workers.

Sirolly and Yee started the nonprofit just two years after graduating from Gould, as they saw an urgent need to protect workers who were being exploited within Los Angeles' underground economy.

Since then, the WJC has evolved from a scrappy grassroots organization into a sophisticated legal resource with nearly a dozen staff members. Their cases can range from small settlements for exploited individuals, to larger class action cases involving significant penalties against large entities. The WJC also trains young lawyers to pursue wage justice cases, including Zach Genduso (JD 2017), who is currently serving as an attorney fellow.

In October, the WJC marked its 10th anniversary, hosting a celebration in downtown Los Angeles and honoring USC Gould with the first Sirolly/Yee Founders Award, which recognized the School's leadership in public interest.

Gould is where the duo launched their social justice careers. Under the guidance of Prof. Clare Pastore — a leading member of the California public interest community — as students, Sirolly and Yee volunteered at legal clinics through the Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) and received PILF summer grants to further their experience working in the nonprofit sector.



In a full-circle moment at the celebration, Pastore, who joined the WJC board in 2008, presented the Founders Award to Dean Andrew Guzman, who accepted for Gould.

“When we thought about what institutions and people influenced the founding of the Wage Justice Center a decade ago, USC Gould School of Law immediately and naturally rose to the top of our list,” said Kerith Dilley, the WJC’s executive director. “It was so fitting to celebrate a decade of wage justice by recognizing Gould.”

“Yes, we educate fine corporate lawyers at Gould, but we also have a long history of serving the public interest,” Pastore said, citing as examples the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, which was founded at Gould in 1929; the Western Center on Law and Poverty, created at Gould in 1967; and the Immigrant Defenders Law Center, founded in 2015 by Gould alumna Lindsay Toczykowski (JD 2008). 🏠

—Anne Bergman

Found out more about Gould’s commitment to public interest:  
[gould.law/publicinterest](http://gould.law/publicinterest)

*Prof. Clare Pastore presented Dean Andrew Guzman with the Wage Justice Center’s inaugural Founders Award at the WJC’s anniversary celebration, joined by Gould faculty and public interest students.*

## DETENTION AND DEPORTATION LEAD CIVIL LIBERTIES DISCUSSION

Immigrant rights advocate and 2016 MacArthur “genius grant” recipient Ahilan Arulanantham was the featured guest at this year’s Allen Neiman & Alan Sieroty Lecture.

The April 17 event showcased Arulanantham, who is legal director at the ACLU of Southern California, in conversation with USC Gould Prof. Sam Erman.

The talk drew an eclectic crowd of students, faculty and alumni—among them distinguished lecture series founder Alan Sieroty (JD 1955) and Deanne Neiman, widow of Allen Neiman (JD 1955). (Please see In Memoriam on p. 27)



Arulanantham’s and Erman’s discussion ran the gamut from philosophical abstraction to bread-and-butter matters of best practice.

“Bring almonds to every argument,” Arulanantham suggested, in commenting on studies showing a strong correlation between hungry judges and harsh judicial outcomes. The quip, among others, drew ripples of laughter from the crowd.

The annual civil rights lecture was sprinkled with senior faculty, some of whom chimed in during the Q&A sessions. Several have collaborated closely with Arulanantham. For instance, in discussing innovative “bonding out” options being proposed as an alternative to detention, Arulanantham gave a shout-out to Gould Prof. Emily Ryo, praising her “remarkable empirical research” that Arulanantham has used to validate his arguments. 🏠

—Diane Krieger

*The ACLU’s Ahilan Arulanantham speaks with Prof. Sam Erman.*

# L.A. AS AN U



# URBAN IDEAL

*For Prof. George Lefcoe, there is nowhere better than Los Angeles for trying out new ideas*

By Anne Bergman



**George Lefcoe loves Los Angeles.**

Since 1962, USC Gould Prof. George Lefcoe, a globally recognized expert in real estate finance, development and land use planning, has regarded L.A. as his personal real estate research lab.

He believes the city’s expansiveness and distinct cultures make it the ideal location to try out new ideas. “I think Los Angeles is perfect, considering the diverse options and

connected primarily by freeways and an enviable arterial street system. Inside our villages, we can find the human scale and comfort that can be so elusive in a megacity. This arrangement allows many Southern Californians to live in a quiet neighborhood that also is within one of the world’s most diverse — and important — cities.”

Over the past five decades, Lefcoe has shepherded the careers of countless Gould students who pursue all aspects of the real

*“What George has been doing for decades is in line with the increased emphasis on experiential learning, just as his interdisciplinary approach helped to remake the law school in the 1960s.”*

— PROFESSOR ALEX CAPRON, VICE DEAN FOR FACULTY AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

opportunities it offers for work and play,” he says. Lefcoe even goes as far as to praise the freeways. As aggravating as rush hour congestion can be, the average commute to work in L.A. is shorter than any remotely comparable city, including New York, Chicago, Boston, and Philadelphia.

To buttress his argument, Lefcoe quotes urbanism expert Joel Kotkin: “Southern California functions best as a network of ‘villages,’ some more urban than others,

estate business. He has written widely used textbooks in the field (*Real Estate Transactions, Finance, and Development* and *Real Estate Law and Business*) and has even helped shape the city he loves so much, by serving on both the Los Angeles County and Los Angeles City planning commissions.

He thinks the law school’s proximity to downtown Los Angeles gives the school a “strategic advantage” over other local universities. “Downtown Los Angeles has by far the largest concentration of jobs in the region, making it a vibrant venue for real estate development,” he says. “Our annual USC real estate law and business forum, held downtown, draws over 500 registrants each year.”

He imparts his wide-ranging knowledge inside and outside the classroom walls, leading the approximately 60 students (both JDs and LLMS) who enroll in his Real Estate Law and Business class each semester on myriad site visits around the Los Angeles area. The hosts at these sites are “the people who understand the business best,” Lefcoe says. “Due to USC’s central location and easy freeway access, we have been able to hold site visits from El Segundo to Playa Vista, Hollywood to Santa Monica, without students having to miss another scheduled class.”

During fall of 2017, for example, Lefcoe organized site visits to the recently completed Wilshire Grand Center (the tallest building west of the Mississippi) and to the South L.A. affordable housing community Dunbar Village, a rehabbed former hotel and nightclub renowned for hosting and showcasing black jazz musicians during the pre-civil rights era.

Wilshire Grand’s architect and planner Christopher Martin led the ground-floor-to-tower skyscraper tour; while Tom Safran, chairman of Tom Safran Associates Affordable

L.A. civic leader Ed Edelman (right) honored Prof. George Lefcoe in 1989.



*Prof. Lefcoe took his students to the Dunbar Village for a tour led by the affordable housing project's contractor Kevin Napoli and Andrew Gross, president of TSA Development.*

Housing, took charge of the Dunbar Hotel visit. After the tours, both men fielded spirited questions from Lefcoe and his students, digging deeply into subjects such as how each project was financed and even how textiles, countertop materials and lighting fixtures were chosen.

Lefcoe's emphasis on site visits and interacting with expert guest lecturers, he says, is borne from the notion that, "You can't understand it if you don't see it. Can you imagine a class in litigation that didn't involve visiting a courtroom? I select a wide range of site visits because negotiating the Wilshire Grand project is not the same as understanding how Playa Vista evolved to become the main home of Silicon Beach, with such firms as Google, YouTube and Yahoo now located there."

"What George has been doing for decades is in line with the increased emphasis on experiential learning, just as his interdisciplinary approach helped to remake the law school in the 1960s," says Gould Professor Alex Capron, vice dean for faculty and academic affairs.

#### **THOUGHTFUL AND RIGOROUS**

"In the classroom, George can be tough," says Amy Forbes (JD 1984), a co-partner in charge of the Los Angeles office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, where she has spent her entire legal career.

"He's a stickler for class participation. I took his land use class and a seminar on redevelopment. His approach is practical, but always grounded in thoughtful and rigorous analysis of the law. There were about 13 of us in the redevelopment seminar, and 10 of us became land-use lawyers. We learned about every redevelopment project area in L.A., and it was a gift because when I started at Gibson Dunn, I was assigned to work on the Walt Disney Concert Hall project because I knew all about how redevelopment worked," says Forbes, who also served as lead counsel in the deal for the Inglewood redevelopment project approved in early 2015 that included the new Rams stadium.

Lefcoe's teaching is grounded in his own real-world accomplishments, which mirror much of what he has



taught in Real Estate Law and Business. "I've owned small apartment buildings. I was a developer. I even built a prize-winning two-unit condo in Santa Monica from scratch," he says.



Top: Prof. Lefcoe addresses the 2018 Real Estate Law and Business Forum, which convenes public officials and real estate experts. Below: In October, Lefcoe organized a Wilshire Grand Center site visit for his students, led by architect/planner Christopher Martin and his associates.

Real estate comes naturally to Lefcoe, who says that by age 6 he would occasionally work the front desk in his parents' hotel in post-World War II Miami. "You could say that I grew up on a site visit," Lefcoe says with a laugh. His family owned and managed small hotels, catering to "vacationers on budgets escaping the Northeast cold."

In high school, Lefcoe took a part-time job at the county courthouse as a law clerk and ad hoc research assistant.

"I would shelve books in the law library, and I learned how to use basic legal materials. I ended up knowing all of the trial judges and learned the ins and outs of what the lawyers and legal procedures were like," he recalls. Lefcoe would return home and share what he was learning with his parents, who applied these lessons to their expanding business.

It wasn't until Lefcoe was in his first year at Dartmouth when he realized "not everybody discusses real estate at the dinner table."

Lefcoe majored in political science and philosophy at the Ivy League school, which he attended based on its glamorous depiction in the 1939 film "Winter Carnival." Six weeks into his first semester, the Miami native realized the "shocking" reality of the New Hampshire autumn. The glamour wore off. By the end of his time at Dartmouth, Lefcoe had concluded that he wanted to become a law professor with a specialty in real estate law — and practice in a milder climate.

Graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 1959, Lefcoe headed to Yale Law School, where he became a comment editor on the *Yale Law Journal*. He earned his law degree in 1962 and by 1963 was teaching in sunny Southern California at USC's law school.

"When I arrived here in the early 1960s, the downtown we know now didn't exist," says Lefcoe, who quickly became enamored with how architectural historian Reyner Banham divided L.A. into "four ecologies": the beach towns of "Surfurbia," the Foothills, the utilitarian "Plains of Id" and the freeway system, "Autopia."

As he adapted to Los Angeles, Lefcoe worked with faculty colleagues Chris Stone and Bill Bishin to revamp and unify the law school's curriculum to encourage students to look at the ways that, and reasons why, law takes particular forms, especially through the framework of a new course, "Law, Language and Ethics."

By the 1970s, Lefcoe was heavily involved with urban planning, even serving as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), to advise them on low-income and affordable housing, and how to deal with objectors opposed to subsidized housing being constructed in their neighborhoods.

He also organized conferences around the world for the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, as well as a Japanese



corporation. While he loved traveling to cities such as Sydney and London, he lamented how there were few chances to explore during the conferences. “You’re in the hotel lobby all day, reading papers to each other. Meanwhile, outside the sun is shining,” he recalls.

He was inspired to launch his next venture, the USC Traveling Land Use Seminar. Beginning in 1990, Lefcoe led tours of cities such as Barcelona and Havana, where he and the other seminar participants met with civic leaders and real estate developers. The tours were so informative that they drew Los Angeles policymakers such as L.A. County Supervisor Ed Edelman and local business luminaries such as Stanley Gold (JD 1967), chairman of Shamrock Holdings and a member of the USC Board of Trustees and a lifetime member of the USC Gould Board of Councilors.

“As one of George’s early students, I learned much in the classroom. He literally taught me how to think,” says Gold, who accompanied Lefcoe on many of the Land Use Seminars. “And it turned out that I continued to learn from George long after graduation. On these trips, we explored land development and financing, as

A sample of the topics covered at the spring 2018 forum includes: cannabis regulations and their impact on California real estate, the effect of driverless cars on the urban landscape, the evolution of retail, and the utilization of funding for homeless services and housing.

To share insights into effective ways to alleviate homelessness, Lefcoe called upon the Honorable Neal Rackleff (JD 1992), Assistant Secretary for HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development. Rackleff, who was confirmed by the Senate in August 2017, oversees billions of dollars in federal funding. He previously served as director of Houston’s Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD) and a partner at Locke Lord, where he handled real estate law. During his tenure at the HCDD, Houston became the first major city to effectively end veteran homelessness and reduce chronic homelessness by more than 70 percent.

Rackleff had recently reconnected with Lefcoe, of whom he says, “George was my favorite professor. He had a significant impact on my life and my career.” When Rackleff began law school, the Orange County native intended to become a prosecuting attorney, but after taking Lefcoe’s

*“As one of George’s early students, I learned much in the classroom. He literally taught me how to think. And it turned out that I continued to learn from George long after graduation.”*

—STANLEY GOLD (JD 1967), CHAIRMAN OF SHAMROCK HOLDINGS AND A MEMBER OF THE USC BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND A LIFETIME MEMBER OF THE USC GOULD BOARD OF COUNCILORS.

well as construction techniques. In particular, I recall his discussion about the redevelopment of Portugal’s medieval city, Porto, without changing its charming character. That was especially instructional.”

### MEETING CHALLENGES

“Real estate is a small world, and the people who are important in this market all know each other,” says Forbes, adding that Lefcoe has ties to “every firm in L.A.”

For more than 10 years, Lefcoe has tapped into this list of industry heavyweights to organize the USC Real Estate Law and Business Forum, convening public officials and experts to discuss the latest trends and strategies for meeting challenges in real estate as they arise.

Transactions class, Rackleff switched gears and became a real estate attorney, inspired by what he calls “George’s innovative and pragmatic approach.”

For Rackleff’s recent trip to Los Angeles, Lefcoe arranged — what else? — a site visit of the new USC Village. Rackleff, found the project impressive.

Site visits, it seems, are essential to Lefcoe’s professional and personal life. He recently quoted from “Dying: A Memoir” by Cory Taylor to help illustrate their significance: “For what are we, if not a body taking a mind for a walk, just to see what’s there?”

He exudes: “Walking around to use your mind and see what’s there! That’s the essence of a site visit!” 🚶

# SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTS REAL ESTATE LAW STUDENTS

Generous half-million dollar gift honors Phillip R. Nicholson (JD 1961)

By Gilien Silsby

**When it came to the legal world, Phillip R. Nicholson JD '61 had two passions — his law school alma mater and the Los Angeles law firm he helped launch and build.**

In that spirit, Cox, Castle & Nicholson recently established a scholarship in Nicholson's name supporting USC Gould School of Law students with an interest in real estate law.

Nicholson, the firm's founding partner, who passed away in 2015, was one of Los Angeles' premier real estate attorneys and deeply committed to helping the next generation of lawyers.

"He would be overjoyed with this scholarship," says Joan Nicholson, Phil's widow. "He was very devoted to the law school and the firm. This combination couldn't be more perfect."

The generous \$500,000 initial gift creates the Phillip R. Nicholson Memorial Scholarship Fund for Real Estate Excellence, the largest named scholarship established by a law firm at USC Gould.

The fund, which has the ability to grow through additional support, will award annual scholarships to USC law students in their second and third years.

"Phil Nicholson possessed the integrity, expertise and excitement for the law to which our students aspire," says Andrew T. Guzman, dean of USC Gould. "Scholarships are vital to attract and retain the best and the brightest student talent. We are tremendously appreciative to Cox,

Castle & Nicholson for pioneering this remarkable scholarship honoring Phil Nicholson."

Anna Karapetyan and Edward Ji, both JDs class of 2018, are the inaugural recipients of the new scholarship. They were hand-selected by Joan Nicholson and her four daughters.

Karapetyan says the scholarship is especially meaningful since her interest in real estate began when she worked as an intern at Cox, Castle & Nicholson as an undergraduate student at USC.

"My legal exploration began with Cox, Castle & Nicholson, and I gained so much knowledge from that experience," says Karapetyan, a native of nearby Glendale. "The firm's supportive and welcoming environment was the ideal place to begin my career. The power of the Trojan family and sense of community, which creates a tradition of giving back and supporting future Trojans, is inspiring and something I hope to continue."

Karapetyan, who pursued real estate law at Gould, is a first-generation college graduate and was managing editor of the *Southern California Review of Law and Social Justice*. She was also a supervising clinical intern at the USC Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic.

A Los Angeles native, Ji chose to pursue his Gould degree after his experience working as a senior analyst in commercial lending at JPMorgan Chase & Co.



From top to bottom:  
Inaugural student  
scholarship recipients  
Edward Ji and Anna  
Karapetyan, class of  
2018; Nicholson on his  
graduation day; the  
Nicholson family; and  
Dean Guzman with Mario  
Camara, partner at Cox,  
Castle & Nicholson.

“Real estate drives our society, and I am excited to be part of that process,” says Ji, a first-generation college graduate. “Mr. Nicholson’s extraordinary work ethic, respected reputation and passion for everything he did shows me what it means to be a true Trojan, and I feel honored to receive a scholarship in his name.”

Ji earned dual degrees at USC — a law degree at Gould and master of real estate development at the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy.

“Through our broad-based community efforts and professional support initiatives at local universities and bar associations, the attorneys at Cox, Castle have always had a strong belief in the importance of supporting aspiring attorneys in our communities,” says Mario Camara, senior partner on Cox, Castle & Nicholson’s Management Committee. “This scholarship fund builds on this legacy while honoring our beloved founder Phil Nicholson.”

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**“Mr. Nicholson’s extraordinary work ethic, respected reputation and passion for everything he did shows me what it means to be a true Trojan, and I feel honored to receive a scholarship in his name.”**

—Edward Ji (JD 2018)

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Whenever possible, scholarships will be awarded to those with a strong interest in pursuing a career in real estate law, with consideration given to those who are the first in their families to attend college or law school.

Cox, Castle & Nicholson is actively involved in a host of legal and commercial real estate programs aimed at supporting the next generation of law students and attorneys. In addition to the firm’s support of the USC Gould School of Law, Cox, Castle & Nicholson also is involved with the UC Berkeley School of Law and UCLA Law. The firm also has been instrumental in the California Bar Foundation Diversity Scholarships program, which now provides more than 60 scholarships annually.

Nicholson graduated with his bachelor’s degree from the USC Marshall School of Business in 1957 and earned his JD from the USC Gould School of Law in 1961. The University remained a constant in his life through his involvement with the USC Lusk Center for Real Estate. In 1968, he partnered with George Cox and Richard Castle to form Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP. As managing partner, Nicholson grew the firm to its current stature as one of the largest real estate specialty firms in the United States. 🏡



# OPEN TO CHANGE

An expert on complex real estate transactions, Phillip G. Nichols shares his drafting and negotiating skills with students

By Christina Schweighofer

**When USC Gould Lecturer in Law Phillip G. Nichols looks down from his office in Century City, he sees to his left an empty lot.** Eventually, a high-rise will go up on that site, blocking his view of the triangular Century Plaza Towers and Downtown Los Angeles in

mentored the first-year associate, sending drafts back to him black with comments. “Leo was fabulous at teaching me about complex issues as we went along,” Nichols says.

Doing deals around the country almost from the beginning, Nichols always thrived on the intellectual challenges, the fast pace and the collaborative side of his work. “Every deal is like a pop-up community you’re building around a transaction,” he says. “You need to get people to trust you, and at the same time you need to aggressively represent your client.”

In 1983, he, Pircher and 15 other attorneys left Lawler to start a boutique real estate law firm, Pircher, Nichols & Meeks. A senior counsel at the firm, which employs 60 transactional lawyers, Nichols’ work was recognized by his peers, who named him Best Lawyers’ Lawyer of the Year for Real Estate Law in Los Angeles. He was also recently recognized by the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) as “Outstanding Real Estate Attorney.”

Nichols is eager to pass on his expertise to young associates and to students at USC Gould. “My objective is to help them become better lawyers than they otherwise might have been,” he says. His class this fall, “Drafting and Negotiating Purchase Agreements for Commercial Real Property,” will include mock negotiations and weekly drafting assignments that he will return black with comments.

In his private life, Nichols takes time each week to hang out with his four grandchildren and to volunteer at a church in Beverly Hills that serves lunch and music to people who are homeless or otherwise in need. Nichols plays the keyboard. “When the people start dancing,” he says, “you know you’re succeeding. It’s a nice connecting moment.”

Nichols is optimistic about Los Angeles. “Over the past 50 years, Los Angeles has had a surprising emergence,” he says. “This city is fascinating for its failures and successes — its continuous evolution is so interesting.” 🏠



*Phil Nichols, who teaches “Drafting and Negotiating Purchase Agreements for Commercial Real Property,” feels optimistic about Los Angeles.*

the distance. Nichols doesn’t resent the change ahead. What he wonders is: How will the architects fill the void? And how will people experience the new space?

Being open to change, to exploring new concepts and ideas, comes naturally to Nichols. A once beads-wearing philosophy major, a former United Farm Workers full-time volunteer and an ex-Marine (via the draft), he found a way to get “paid to think,” as he says, when he graduated from UCLA’s law school as one of the top three students in his class.

Nichols started his career at Lawler, Felix & Hall where one of the partners, Leo Pircher, soon needed a hand with his burgeoning real estate practice. Pircher

# THE REAL ESTATE COACH

Danny Guggenheim (JD 2004) brings his expertise back to campus

By Julie Riggott

**Coaching others has been a persistent theme in the legal career of Danny Guggenheim JD '04.**

As a 2L at USC Gould, he was a teaching assistant for the first-year legal research and writing class, and Student Bar Association president as a 3L.

Now a partner with Pircher, Nichols and Meeks LLP in Los Angeles (PN&M), Guggenheim continues the coaching habit.

In February, he brought the PN&M Real Estate Joint Venture (JV) Challenge to USC Gould School of Law and USC Marshall School of Business MBA students. (See brief on p. 3)

Guggenheim has connections to both Gould and Marshall, having originally been admitted as a JD/MBA student. He never pursued the MBA, however, because in his 1L year he realized that he wanted to focus exclusively on law.

Bringing the JV Challenge to USC isn't Guggenheim's first foray into alumni service. Previous stints include service on the Executive Committee of the USC Gould Alumni Association and several other alumni boards and committees. He has been an ambassador for newly admitted students and a guest lecturer for Professor George Lefcoe's real estate class. And he never misses the 1L mentor lunch.

"It is important to me to stay connected, because having attended Gould and being an alum has opened so many doors for me," Guggenheim says. From his externship as a judicial clerk, to his first firm job at Sidley Austin and then to PN&M, Guggenheim credits alumni with sharing the opportunities with him.

Guggenheim also met his wife, Jenna (JD 2004), at Gould.

"It is still hard to believe how much of my success is directly attributable to having been a Gould student or alum," Guggenheim notes.

Guggenheim says he fell into real estate by chance.

"I happened to be the one person, from my entering class of about 25, assigned to Sidley's L.A. real



estate transactions group as a first-year associate," Guggenheim says.

He knew he wanted to be a transactional lawyer after his 2L summer at Sidley, and taking Prof. Lefcoe's class as a 3L cemented his decision to focus on real estate.

Today Guggenheim is a partner in PN&M's real estate department, where he represents private equity funds, non-bank lenders and other investors in connection with joint ventures, acquisitions, dispositions and financings. Guggenheim is listed in The Best Lawyers in America as one of the Best Lawyers® 2018 in the practice area of Real Estate Law.

But Guggenheim doesn't do his job for the accolades. "I went to law school in large part because I wanted to help people—in the sense of being a counselor on whom people could rely in times of need," he says. 🚧

# Meet the Trojan Trio Behind an L.A. Real Estate Empire

Each sibling runs a division of the family-owned company

By Diane Krieger

**Jaime Lee (BA 2006, JD 2009) is the literary one. Phill Lee (BS 2008, JD 2012) is the athletic one with a head for business. Garrett Lee (BA 2011, JD 2014) is the filmmaker and audiophile.**

Yet different as they are, the three Lee siblings share some significant things in common: All are USC Gould graduates.

And all are senior executives at Jamison, the \$3-billion real estate empire that owns, manages and leases more than 18 million square feet of commercial and residential properties in Los Angeles.

Each sibling runs a division of the family-owned company. Jaime is in charge of leasing and brokerage operations. Phill handles all the commercial property management. And Garrett oversees Jamison's newest branch, the multifamily development division.

"It's a very Korean way of running the company," says Jaime, CEO of Jamison Realty. The 33-year-old mother of two was recently elected to the USC Board of Trustees and is also immediate past president of the USC Alumni Association Board of Governors, the youngest Trojan and the first Asian-American woman to serve as president.

There's a fourth Lee sibling, Brian (BA 2009, MBA 2014), who doesn't work at Jamison. A visual artist and entrepreneur, he runs a fine art gallery/wine bar in Koreatown.

## ORIGINS

Law school wasn't in the original master plan for the Lee offspring. "We were all supposed to be doctors," says Jaime.

As dutiful children of Korean immigrants, she explains, the siblings were expected to follow in the footsteps of their parents: Dr. David Lee, an internist, and Dr. Miki Nam (BS 1979), a dentist.

But sometime in the 1990s, the Lees started investing in what Jaime describes as a series of "random ventures:" a laundromat, a photocopy shop, a fashion modeling school.

Those early ventures didn't thrive, but things changed when the Lees started investing in the medical buildings

where they were tenants. When dad asked 8-year-old Jaime what to name his company, she suggested her own nickname. And the Jamison enterprise was born.

## FOUR DOUBLE TROJANS

It's no accident that all four Lee children are double Trojans. As graduates of academically rigorous Harvard-Westlake high school, they could have gone anywhere. But their father pushed them to attend USC. The family has strong Trojan ties. Mom, grandfather Andrew Nam (DDS 1972) and countless aunts and uncles were all alumni. Dad had gone to Northwestern and UCLA, but keeping his children in Los Angeles, close to downtown and Koreatown, was a top priority for the doctor-turned-real estate baron, and USC was the key to making it happen.

They found that their USC Gould legal education laid the bedrock for understanding and eventually running a complicated real estate operation.

"It was more about getting into a mindset: how to approach creative problem solving, how to issue spot, and how to protect and advance the business," Jaime says. "USC Gould is the only law school I applied to. The education I received was phenomenal."

Jaime, who delivered the university greeting at the 2018 USC Women's Conference in March, is a capable multitasker, chairing several city and state commissions and directing the boards of various business and community organizations.

For Phill, whose undergrad major was business, USC Gould offered new insights into the family enterprise. "I had no idea how much real estate touches on legal aspects, even just contracts and negotiation tactics," says the 31-year-old, who oversees 150 employees as president of Jamison Services, the company's management side.

To stay connected with his alma mater, Phill serves on the boards of the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association



*Phill, Jaime and Garrett Lee on the rooftop of The Abbey, which is one of their company's recent apartment conversions.*

and the USC Athletics Board of Counselors. He also recently worked on his fifth-year USC Gould reunion. One of his classmates is his wife, Stephanie (Leonard) Lee (JD 2012).

Stephanie also works at Jamison — one of about 15 lawyers throughout the company, a dozen of whom are USC Gould alumni. Jaime's husband, engineer Matt Cheesebro (MSE 2009), runs the company's construction division.

Marrying into the family seems to come with an employment clause. "It's a clear warning to anyone who might be interested in Garrett," Jaime jokes.

For now, though, Garrett, 28, says he's married to the job. As president of Jamison Properties, he oversees the newest and fastest-growing division of the company — its development arm. When he graduated in 2014, Jamison's holdings were almost exclusively office buildings. Today, its pipeline of multifamily projects is poised to rival the commercial holdings.

Unlike his two oldest siblings, Garrett hadn't intended to work in the family business. He studied film production as an undergraduate with the ambition of directing movies. His parents talked him into applying to law school. To his surprise, Garrett loved the intellectual challenges at USC Gould. He accepted many internships. He completed certificates in both entertainment and business law and won the Norma Zarky Memorial Award. The highlight of his Gould experience was working with documentary filmmakers in the Intellectual Property & Technology Law Clinic.

#### **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

Though the siblings have big portfolios, their parents are still involved at Jamison. Their mother, who left her dental practice

a decade ago, heads up the company's accounting department. Their father—who needs no title, everyone calls him "Dr. Lee" — has final say on everything.

The Lee children delight in telling tales of dad's work-fixated idiosyncrasies.

Like the time in middle school he left them without a car in Mammoth. A snowstorm had downed the ski resort's fax line, impeding his timely bidding on a real estate deal. Frustrated, he drove home.

"We joke that the company is his fifth child — arguably, his favorite child," Jaime says, playfully.

When they were children, he drilled them on business stories in the newspaper over breakfast — a habit he still indulges whenever they come to visit, which is often. All the Lees live in or within a mile of Koreatown.

#### **FIRST GEN SHIFT**

Lately, Dr. Lee has delegated the day-to-day decision making to his capable offspring.

"He feels like he can take a step back and observe what he's created," says Jaime. "We are navigating our first generational shift, which is a rare and complex process."

The siblings are hustling to prove they're up to the task of running Jamison on their own.

"His experience and instinct, we can't replace," Jaime says. "But we're learning how to look at all issues from his perspective and then synthesize that with our own judgment and expertise." She likens Dr. Lee's emerging role to "a speedboat, racing ahead, scanning the horizon for the next big opportunity. And we're back on the cruise ship, trying to keep up and making sure everything is running smoothly." 🚢

# Confronting Brutality

From East African refugee camps to The Hague’s tribunals, Hannah Garry shows USC Gould students how human rights law can be life-saving work

By Gilien Silsby

**Like many people, Hannah Garry assumed it was mostly doctors, not lawyers, who saved lives.**

She discovered to the contrary in the summer of 1997, after traveling to Uganda as a research consultant working on behalf of the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford.

“Lawyers were literally on the front lines,” she says.

Researching the plight of refugees — many of them victims of human rights abuses — she realized the pivotal role attorneys can play in seeking justice for some of the most brutal abuse.

“It was a life-changing experience,” she says.

“My research showed that lawyers could not only significantly help protect refugees from human rights abuses, but empower them to claim their

rights. After my time there, I knew I wanted to be an international human rights attorney.”

Garry, who is now a clinical professor at the USC Gould School of Law, helped establish the first legal aid clinic for refugees in Kampala, the capital of Uganda. Twenty years on, the clinic continues to change lives — assisting refugees fleeing neighboring countries and representing them before the United Nations and the Ugandan government.

These days, Garry spends her time training fledgling attorneys through USC Gould’s International Human Rights Clinic. Since founding the clinic in 2011, Garry has supervised more than 60 Gould students working with international criminal tribunals and prosecuting mass atrocities. Domestically, they have represented survivors of human rights abuses, including human trafficking victims and human rights defenders.

“We are dedicated to using the law to fight for ideals of truth, justice and reconciliation,” she says. “Human rights must be upheld and fought for with fierce determination.”

Garry grew up in a farming town of 5,000 people in rural Illinois, the oldest of six children. It wasn’t until she was in her early 20s that she first ventured beyond the Midwest. International law was initially not on her radar.

But from an early age she dreamed of being a lawyer.

“I grew up in low-income circumstances,” she says. “I thought that if I became an attorney, I would always have financial security, and I knew that I wanted to help people.”

“Although my parents had limited means, they were really good at teaching us about the importance

*Prof. Garry’s work with Ugandan refugees was a “life-changing experience.”*



USC honored Prof. Garry in 2015 with its prestigious Mellon Award for Faculty Mentoring Graduate Students.

of volunteering and taking care of others,” Garry says. “I knew that I also wanted to serve others with my law degree.”

Garry was the first in her family to attend college, graduating *summa cum laude* from Wheaton College with majors in history and political science.

Intrigued by international human rights after interning with a human rights advocacy group in Washington D.C., she went on to earn master’s degrees in forced migration studies from Oxford University and in international affairs from Columbia University, before completing her JD at UC Berkeley. At Boalt Hall, she was managing editor of the *Berkeley Journal of International Law* and was active in the International Human Rights Law Clinic.

But in the middle of her graduate studies, Garry took a detour to Uganda.

“I wanted to get some life experience,” she says.

Crimes against humanity were in the headlines, both in Africa and Europe.

“It was the Rwandan genocide, and it was the conflict in the Balkans. At the time, it was the worse refugee crisis since World War II,” she recalls.

Over the next 18 months, Garry implemented socio-legal field research into the protection of refugees under international law in Uganda and Kenya, as a field researcher with Oxford and Makerere University in Kampala.

After completing her JD in 2002, she went to work for the international courts, also known as tribunals. Garry was first a legal officer with the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda and deputy chief of staff for the presidency of the ICTY. After entering academia, she has provided legal advice to international judges as a visiting professor at the International Criminal Court and a senior legal advisor to the Cambodia Tribunal.

“Working in international criminal courts gives you a unique global perspective,” Garry says. “Justice can, at times, move slowly in these complex cases, but the hope is that through the process, truth and reconciliation are achieved for victims and affected societies.”



She also has experience in U.S. courts, having clerked for the Hon. Rosemary Barkett on the U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit, who is now an international judge on the Iran U.S. Claims Tribunal. Her private-sector experience includes being an associate at Freshfields, Bruckhaus, Deringer LLP, practicing in the international arbitration, dispute resolution and public international law groups.

Since 2010, she has focused on training the next generation of international human rights lawyers. Her efforts have earned accolades. In 2015, Garry was the recipient of the USC Mellon Award for Faculty Mentoring Graduate Students, a prestigious recognition for USC faculty members. To date, she has helped nearly 40 USC Gould students in obtaining competitive human rights fellowships and internships abroad.

Her next goal is to take USC Gould students to the clinic she helped establish in Uganda more than 20 years ago, building on experience gained this year in taking students to Beirut, Lebanon, to represent four Syrian and Iranian refugee families in need of resettlement due to serious security threats and medical needs.

“It would be a dream come true,” she says, “to take my students to the Kampala clinic and have them also assist refugees in East Africa.”

And a chance to show them first-hand how lawyering can be life-saving work. 🚒

Learn more about Prof. Garry’s work with the International Human Rights Clinic: [gould.law/ibrcl](http://gould.law/ibrcl)

# She Judges in Paradise

Maritime litigator Elyze Iriarte (JD 2001) reflects on the pleasures of practicing — and now serving on the bench — in her native Guam

By Julie Riggott

**For 15 years, Judge Elyze Iriarte JD '01 has practiced law in a tropical paradise.** She left her native Guam to study at the University of Chicago and then USC Gould, but returned to build her professional career in the U.S. island territory of Micronesia. In 2016, she was appointed to the Superior Court in Guam.

“The lifestyle is ideal if you want a family life and restful weekends,” says Iriarte, who also lived in Hawaii for three years, while still keeping up her practice in Guam. But there’s no better island, she decided, than her birthplace in the Western Pacific. “Guam is about family, culture and food. Even the busiest attorneys on the island can find balance.”

The bar association in Guam has only 200 attorneys, and “this forces everyone to take civility seriously,” Iriarte adds.

Guam may be a small jurisdiction, but the cases can be complex. When Iriarte litigated a series of vessel grounding cases in the Federated States of Micronesia, the issues reached far beyond ships hitting the reefs.

“The cases brought into focus questions of cultural preservation, environmental economics — such as the value of fish and coral in self-sustaining societies — as well as legal procedures when a community, rather than the state, seeks damages,” she says. “I am proud that I worked on issues that have shaped this area of law in a developing country.”

Iriarte began her legal career as a law clerk at the District Court of Guam — a position she landed during her last semester at Gould. At the time, she was also articles editor for the *Southern California Review of Law & Women's Studies*.



“Gould opened doors for me in getting work experience,” she says. “That experience shaped my initial desire to be a part of the judiciary. Gould understood my goals and exercised flexibility in helping me achieve them.”

Iriarte quickly realized she loved being a litigator but also found success in managing firms. She stayed with her first firm, Carlsmith Ball LLP, for 15 years, focusing primarily on employment and maritime litigation. She litigated some of the region’s most important oil spill, vessel grounding and vessel arrest cases.

“I’m also proud of cases I litigated before the Guam Supreme Court, affirming the at-will employment doctrine in Guam, improving the government procurement methods, and clarifying statutory interpretation,” she says.

Iriarte had a multi-jurisdiction practice around the Pacific. In addition to Guam, she is admitted to practice law in California, Hawaii, the Republic of Palau and the Northern Mariana Islands.

“And now as a judge, I have found a calling,” she says.

Seventeen years after graduating, Iriarte retains her Trojan spirit and is reaching out to like-minded Guamanians.

She and fellow Gould alumna Dana Gutierrez (JD 1998), who also attended USC as an undergraduate, are trying to organize a USC Guam club. “There are a dozen or so people here who have ties to USC. It’s still a work in progress, but hopefully the University can help us with this endeavor!” 🗡️



# Law School as Life Changer

Joseph Porter III (JD 1971) credits Gould with his success as a litigator

By Diane Krieger

**Joseph E. Porter III JD '71, Hale Moot Court champion in 1970, built his reputation as an entertainment litigator with innovative arguments and silver tongued rhetoric.**

Porter grew up in the West Adams neighborhood of Los Angeles, a stone's throw from campus. A good student, he dreamed of a career in law enforcement, so he majored in police science at Cal State Los Angeles and simultaneously trained in a platoon leader program through the U.S. Marines.

After his military service ended, Porter struck up a friendship with the famous civil rights activist-journalist I.F. Stone, whom he recalls as "a tenacious, wonderful man." Stone offered to introduce him to his son, a young USC law

He also helped establish the pioneering Norman Topping Scholarship Fund.

Shortly after graduating, he co-founded the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association, a national group he still leads, and was a founding member of the California Association of Black Lawyers.

It was Dorothy Nelson (LLM 1956) who introduced Porter to student mentoring. As 1L class president, he had served on the search committee that selected the legendary USC Gould dean. A few years later, Dean Nelson would call to ask if he'd take a student, Ron Sweeney (JD 1978) under his wing. Sweeney grew into a trusted friend and distinguished colleague, rising to president of Sony Records' urban music division.

The habit of grooming USC Gould students for careers in entertainment law stuck.

"Through the years I've always had someone I was involved in mentoring," says Porter, putting his total number of mentees at around 30. Porter also has served on the board of the USC Gould Alumni Association and participates in the School's entertainment law institutes.

Porter, 72, says that he gives back because he cares. "USC changed my life. I'm almost 50 years out of law school, but the bulk of my trusted friends were kids I met there. That really says something."

As a young lawyer, Porter landed a full-time job with Motown Chairman Berry Gordy. From Motown, he made the jump to American International Pictures and later formed his own law firms in Century City and Beverly Hills. In 1985, Porter, who holds a post-doctoral certificate in entertainment law from USC, moved his practice to Seal Beach.

It was perhaps inevitable that Joseph E. Porter IV (JD 2017) would also attend USC Gould. The younger Porter, now an associate at Latham & Watkins, plans to stay connected to Gould, just like his father.

"He's an amazing example for how I want to be involved. They're big shoes to fill, but I think it's important." 🚩



In December, Joseph Porter III '71 (right) celebrated his son Joseph Porter IV '17 passing the California State Bar.

professor named Christopher Stone. Before long, Porter was filling out USC scholarship applications.

Porter thrived at USC Gould. "I really loved law school," he says. "It was the highlight of my education. The thinking process, the camaraderie of the students, even the stress was very exciting. And I learned a hell of a lot."

Besides winning the moot court championship, he was the first African American elected USC Gould 1L class president, and he earned the prestigious Shattuck Award for outstanding service.

While at USC, he co-founded the Black American Law Students Association, the first such group on the West Coast.

# Professionals with *an*

MSL graduates bring to the business world a better understanding of legal issues

By Christina Schweighofer

**Well on track in two careers, one civilian and one military, Courtney Cantrella (MSL 2017) was looking to boost her competency in both when she came across the Master of Studies in Law degree at USC Gould**

More than a year after graduating from the online program, she has no regrets. “I work for a nonprofit that assists veterans and also serve in the Army Reserves,” she says. “Each profession has been greatly enhanced by the knowledge and skills I’ve acquired from this program.”

Cantrella’s story is not rare. The MSL degree, a fairly new USC Gould offering, appeals especially to working professionals and to those who want to learn more about the U.S. legal system, but have no immediate plan to practice law. About 100 students are currently enrolled. Many bring professional experience, fields of work ranging from accounting and business to entertainment, healthcare and law enforcement. Others embark on an MSL straight out of college.

Nathan Coker (MSL 2017) is in the latter category. Now an actor and aspiring film producer in Los Angeles, he fell in love with law as a young boy because of the TV series *Judging Amy*. While completing his undergraduate studies at Arizona State University in 2015, he considered applying to a JD program. After researching options and talking with attorneys and career advisors, Coker decided against a full law degree; while he felt passionate about law, he wasn’t sure that practicing law was what he wanted to pursue as a career.

By deciding on the MSL degree — graduates are not qualified to sit for a U.S. bar exam — he got to take law classes without the intense time commitment of a JD. “I learned a lot,” he says, adding that he gained a deeper understanding of law in general as well as a working knowledge of securities and contracts. Best of all, the program allowed him to simultaneously earn a certificate in business law, which, in turn, has made

him feel more competent in his own entrepreneurial ambitions.

Coker, who is starting his own production company to create socially conscious media, recently filed paperwork with the State of California to register the business. He feels confident that his Gould education will help him with his venture. “I’ll know what I should be looking for when I do get legal counsel,” he says.

Cantrella, as outreach coordinator for a charity, directly experiences the benefits of having completed an MSL program. “Working for a nonprofit, I read and deal with contracts frequently. The

Nathan Coker (far left, back row) and his fellow members of the inaugural MSL graduating class of 2018 at their commencement ceremony in May.



# Edge in Law

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Nathan Coker (left)  
with Senior Student  
Services Advisor  
Nicholas Kajimoto.

coursework has given me the real-world tools to identify intellectual property theft and practical skills to better myself in the workplace,” she says.

“The instructors have been more than helpful to develop us (as students) in our professional lives,” she adds. “They are great resources as we grow into our roles in the law community.”



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“The coursework has given me the real-world tools to identify intellectual property theft, and practical skills to better myself in the workplace.” —Courtney Cantrella (MSL 2017)

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Anitha Cadambi (LLM 2011), who is the associate director of graduate curriculum and instruction at the law school, says that students generally find that the course materials are not only interesting but in many cases also “immediately applicable to their careers.” In their work environment, they can better identify legal issues and appreciate a variety of perspectives and opinions on a given subject matter. “They become better leaders and more effective communicators,” she says.

First offered at USC Gould in 2016, the MSL degree, unlike the JD program, does not require applicants to take the GRE or LSAT. To graduate, students must complete 21 units of study that include two mandatory courses (Introduction to the U.S. Legal System and Legal Research). For the remaining units, students may pick courses from four categories: U.S. law, business law, compliance, and entertainment law and industry.

Classes are offered year-round in 15-week semesters during the summer, as well as fall and spring. The exclusively online format of the program allows students to do the coursework at their own pace and from anywhere in the world.

For many MSL students, the biggest challenge still comes from having to balance their work commitments and other personal and professional obligations with the rigorous requirements of the program. Coker finished the program in four semesters while working part time in a restaurant. “I worked every night,” he says, “and I had to slip into a regular pattern. I’d go to the gym in the morning and study from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and then I went to work.”

As a mother, Army Reservist, full-time employee and student, Cantrella also appreciated the flexibility of the program.

Senior Student Services Advisor Nicholas Kajimoto says that most students complete the requirements in four semesters. “Finishing in three semesters is possible,” he says, “but it’s easier for people who aren’t working full time. Completing the MSL over four semesters allows students to maximize their time studying and makes it easier to keep up with work, family and other obligations.”

For Cadambi, another benefit comes directly from forging connections with the Trojan Family, with more than 11,000 USC Gould alumni worldwide. 📖

Find out more about the MSL degree: [gould.law/msl](http://gould.law/msl)

# Ten Classes, 50 Years

Trojan lawyers celebrated at the new USC Village and a penthouse party

For USC Gould alumni, Reunion Weekend offers the opportunity to revisit law school memories, reconnect with good friends, and rediscover why Gould is still their favorite law school. On Sept. 15-16, hundreds of Trojans representing 10 classes from the past 50 years returned to campus to celebrate 2017 USC Gould Alumni Reunion Weekend. Guests enjoyed a new two-day program that included a special penthouse cocktail reception overlooking L.A., admission to USC's favorite Associates Picnic and access to USC Gould Day at the Coliseum, where alumni cheered the USC Trojans on to victory over the University of Texas Longhorns.

Are you planning to join us for 2018 Reunion Weekend? Make plans to be there on Sept. 21-22, 2018, when we will celebrate 3s and 8s. To learn more, visit us online at [gould.law/reunion](http://gould.law/reunion).

*Clockwise: The Class of 1992 kicked off the festivities; Dean Andrew Guzman (center) greets members of the Class of 2012; 1992 class members: Jill Krutchik, Gould's Director of Externship Programs Laura Fry and Diane Trunk; Vincent Gonzalez '87 and Ayano Ichida '97; L- Jim Bianco and Kerry Bensinger, both class of '87 and Class of 2002's Erin Gielow Matzkin, Anuj Shah and Lizelle Brandt.*



**Richard T. Morrow (JD 1950)** died in San Diego on July 4, 2017, at the age of 90. Prior to his education at Gould, Morrow served in the U.S. Navy. While at USC, Morrow served on the Law Review and was elected to the Order of the Coif for outstanding scholarship. Morrow began working for Walt Disney Productions in 1953 as the third member of their in-house legal department. He was named vice president of the company in 1964 and was named general counsel in 1969. He also served on Disney's Board of Directors and was a trustee of the Roy Disney Family Foundation for 14 years. Morrow was active in the Bar Association at the city, county and state levels. In 1984, he was selected by the Los Angeles County Bar Association as the Outstanding Corporate Counsel. He was also elected to the Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts and Sciences.

**Max Blecher (JD 1955)** passed away on Oct. 25, 2017, at the age of 84. Blecher, a legendary antitrust litigator, was a founding member of Blecher, Collins & Pepperman. In 1998 — 43 years after his admission to the Bar — he was honored as the California State Bar Antitrust Section's Antitrust Lawyer of the Year. Nearly 20 years later, *Best Lawyers in America* named him Los Angeles Antitrust Litigator of the Year in 2017. Blecher is survived by his wife of 64 years, Sally, daughter Melodee and grandson Brant.

**Thomas A. Vicelja (LLB 1961)** of Lahaina, Hawaii, died on July 15, 2017, at the age of 81.

**Richard Eckardt (JD 1966)** passed away on Dec. 30, 2017, at age 79. Eckardt practiced business law, most recently with Walker, Wright, Tyler & Ward, and was co-founder of the USC Lambda LGBT Alumni Association. He also served as a USC Lambda co-president (1994-1995) and board member. Eckardt was involved with OUTlaw, USC Gould's LGBT student organization, and received a USCAA Widney Alumni House Award in recognition of his outstanding service to USC and the Trojan Family.

**Suzanne L. Biggs (JD 1977)** of Del Mar passed away in San Diego on Oct. 11, 2016, at the age of 68. She was a patent attorney specializing in intellectual property in the biotechnology pharmaceutical sector. During her career, she was both a partner at a major law firm and a patent attorney with Chevron in San Francisco. Biggs married Jeffrey Petit, a Navy officer and aviator, in 1992.

**Allison Shearmur (JD 1988)**, Hollywood producer and executive, died on Jan. 19, 2018, at age 54. Shearmur worked as an executive at Disney, Universal Paramount and Lionsgate before becoming a producer in 2011. She was the force behind some of the biggest blockbuster franchises in recent years such as "The Hunger Games," "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies," "Cinderella" and "Solo: A Star Wars Story." Shearmur graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and Gould. She launched her career in film and television as an assistant to Oscar-winning producer Stanley Jaffe after winning a contest at Penn. She is fondly remembered as a champion for women in the film industry. Shearmur is survived by her husband, film composer Ed Shearmur, two children, her parents and three siblings.

**Allen Neiman (JD 1956, pictured left with classmate Alan Sieroty) passed away peacefully at his home in Santa Monica on Nov. 14, 2017 at the age of 88.**



Born in Chicago in 1929, Neiman and his family moved to Los Angeles 12 years later. He obtained his BS degree from UCLA in 1950 and immediately enlisted in the United States Air Force. Afterwards, he attended the USC Gould School of Law and graduated with honors in 1957.

Neiman established his first law firm in 1957 and practiced law for more than 50 years, specializing in commercial litigation and family law. In 1980, he became the Honorary Consul General for Burkina Faso. Neiman was the longest-serving member of the Los Angeles Consular Corps; he served on the Executive Committee and held multiple offices in the organization.


Active in the civil rights movement throughout his career, Neiman was formerly vice president of the American Civil Liberties Union, Southern California chapter. In the 1960s, he was a volunteer civil rights worker in Mississippi and worked on voter registration of African Americans and other important issues.

In 2012, Gould established the Allen Neiman & Alan Sieroty Lecture in Civil Liberties to highlight work in this field and support it well into the future. Endowed by Alan Sieroty (JD 1956), a former California state senator and assemblyman, it was named in honor of Sieroty and his classmate Neiman. The series annually brings some of the country's most respected scholars to the law school to address civil liberties issues, and has included Justice Albert Sachs, Hon. Jed Rakoff and Justice Goodwin Liu (see Briefs, p. 7).

"Al Neiman and I are pleased to be able to endow this important lecture series and hope it will stimulate interest from law students to take a closer look at matters related to civil liberties and freedom," Sieroty said then.

"These men have devoted substantial portions of their careers to working on issues related to civil liberties," added then-Dean Robert K. Rasmussen.

Neiman traveled throughout the world, was an avid reader and loved all types of music from bluegrass to opera.

He is survived by Deanne, his wife of 31 years, their five children and several grandchildren. 

# LOYALTY THAT LASTS A

Gould alumni ‘pay it back’ to help the legal leaders of tomorrow



By Jill Barone

*Our annual Scholarship Luncheon offers an opportunity for us to thank the generous donors who make it possible for exceptional students to attend our school.*

**As the legal world evolves and client needs shift, traditional legal education must also evolve.** It's up to law schools to meet this challenge. To remain one of the country's leading law schools, USC Gould focuses on innovation and creativity. Helping Gould to fulfill that goal requires a significant amount of effort.

"Without the loyalty and support of the Trojan family, USC Gould would not be where it is today," says Dean Andrew Guzman. "This support allows the law school to chart new territory while continuing to recruit the best and the brightest students from many different backgrounds across the globe."

Many Gould alumni find great reward in "paying it back" to the next generation of promising young lawyers. Support can come at many different levels, and all of it has a great impact.

"USC Law has given me countless opportunities, both as a student and in the legal world. Although it's early in my career, it is important to me that I give back what I can so that other students can enjoy the same opportunities I had," says Jamie Heine (JD 2013), who was Gould's 2010 Rothman scholar. "I want to ensure that Gould can continue to support its students and produce high-caliber lawyers for generations to come."

"In my 30-plus years as a lawyer, I have had the privilege of working with many fellow Trojans who shared my passion for the Gould School of Law and provided me with mentoring and support along the way," says Teri Paul (JD 1985) "I want to do my small part to ensure that current and future students are able to enjoy the amazing education and experience that Gould offers — everything from its world-class professors to its diverse, hands-on clinics. For these reasons, supporting USC financially and volunteering my time are priorities for me."

Some alumni want to help create opportunities — such as the First Generation Professionals program — for exceptional students who might otherwise be unable to attend Gould. Others may choose to donate to clinics or scholarship funds that focus on groups or causes that resonate most with them.

"I had a great experience at Gould, particularly as an LGBT student who recently came out. Helping to launch a scholarship fund to support LGBT students and those interested in issues impacting the LGBT community was a natural and fulfilling way to pay it forward," says Seth Levy (JD 2001). "It is a genuine thrill to meet the scholarship recipients each year and to see the impact that Gould's incredible culture of excellence — this and so many other

# LIFETIME AND BEYOND



*"I think my decision to attend USC Law School was one of the great decisions of my life," says Ruth Lavine LLB '43, pictured with Dean Andrew Guzman.*

scholarships — continue to have in inspiring and training the next generation of advocates."

The loyalty and dedication of Gould alumni have made a lasting impact on countless students. These alumni feel that the reward is as great as the gift.

"I think my decision to attend USC Law School was one of the great decisions of my life. A law education, even if you never practice law, gives you one of the best backgrounds for the future," says Ruth Lavine (LLB 1943). "Having the privilege of graduating from a first-class law school made me want to help other people have the same opportunity as I did. So I feel fortunate that at this stage of my life I am in the financial position to make it possible."

"During my three years at Gould, I have witnessed how the incredible generosity of our alumni directly benefits our students. This spring's graduating class marks the first class where I have been dean throughout their entire degree. It has been a delight to watch them learn and grow, many through the help of scholarships and support from our alumni," notes Dean Guzman. "Every gift matters. From recent graduate pledges to those who contribute major and planned gifts, all alumni can make an impact." 📌

To see how you can make your own impact, visit [gould.usc.edu/alumni/giving](http://gould.usc.edu/alumni/giving) for more information.

## HOW TO GIVE BACK

*From student scholarships to the impactful work of our clinics, centers and institutes, here are the ways you can contribute:*

USC Gould Dean's Strategic Fund

USC Gould Scholarship Fund

USC Stanley and Ilene Gold Honors Program Challenge Fund

USC Gould First Generation Professionals Program Scholarships

USC Gould First Generation Professionals Program

## CLINICAL PROGRAMS

USC Gould ADR and Mediation Fund

USC Gould Immigration Clinic Fund

USC Gould Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic Fund

USC Gould International Human Rights Clinic Fund

USC Gould Post-Conviction Justice Project Fund

USC Gould Small Business Clinic Fund

## CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

USC Gould Center for Transnational Law and Business

USC Gould Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy and Ethics

# Honor Roll

Governor Jerry Brown appointed **Michael R. Amerian (JD 1999)** to a judgeship in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Amerian previously served as a deputy city attorney in the L.A. City Attorney's Office.

**Mark Anthony Catam (LLM 2016)** launched Catam Global Law, a full-service law firm specializing in corporate immigration, helping companies transition their foreign employees to the U.S.

**Steve Cooley (JD 1973)**, a four-decade Los Angeles County prosecutor and three-term-elected district attorney, co-authored *Blue Lives Matter — In the Line of Duty*, a book that documents the deaths of Los Angeles County law enforcement officers.



Latham & Watkins promoted **Julie D. Crisp (JD 2009)** and **Sean C. Denvir (JD 2008)** to partners. Crisp is a member of the Tax Department in the Los Angeles office, which advises on executive compensation and employee

benefits matters, often in the context of M&A and other corporate transactions. Denvir is a member of the Corporate Department in the San Francisco office, which represents private equity firms, as well as public and private companies, in M&A transactions.

**Carlos Dominguez (JD 2005)**, a deputy attorney general with the State Attorney General's office, was honored as Volunteer of the Year by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for his work at the Domestic Violence Clinic run by the Los Angeles County Bar Association.



**Mark E. Foster (JD 1998)**, counsel in Snell & Wilmer LLP's Orange County office, was elected to the Board of Advisors for the Building Block Foundation Fund, a local organization of real estate professionals focused on supporting Orange County's at-risk youth.

**Kevin Friedmann (JD 1998)** has joined the Los Angeles office of Greenberg Traurig LLP as a shareholder in the firm's Corporate Practice. Friedmann focuses his practice on corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions for publicly traded companies.



**Lisa Lin Garcia (JD 2008)** and **Lisa K. Horgan (JD 2009)** are now shareholders at employment and labor law practice, Littler. Garcia represents clients in employment matters involving class actions;

discrimination and harassment; leaves of absence and disability accommodation; policies, procedures and handbooks; and wage and hour; as well as employers in federal and state court litigation and before state and federal agencies. Horgan focuses her practice on employment litigation and advice, including wage and hour class actions, leaves of absence and disability accommodation, wage and hour issues, discrimination and harassment, and whistleblower claims.

**Justin M. Goldstein (JD 1998)** now heads the new litigation practice group of Sklar Kirsh LLP, a corporate, real estate and entertainment law firm. For the last two decades, Goldstein has represented some of the country's largest and most well-known companies in complex commercial and entertainment litigation.

Feinberg, Mindel, Brandt and Klein LLP named certified family law specialist **Alex Grager (JD 2004)** partner.

**Abigail Greenspan (JD 2010)** was promoted to associate regional counsel for litigation for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Region IX. In this role, Greenspan oversees all of the litigation, along with all of the HUD trial attorneys and support staff in the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada.



Governor Jerry Brown appointed **Kimberley Baker Guillemet (JD 2005)** to a judgeship in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Guillemet has served as director of the Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Reentry since 2015. Prior to that, she served as a deputy attorney general at the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General from 2008 to 2015.

**David Hall (BA 1988, JD 1991)** joined Polsinelli as a shareholder in the firm's Los Angeles office. As a real estate attorney, Hall counsels property owners, real estate investment trusts, developers and institutional lenders, guiding them in strategically managing all aspects of their multifamily, office, retail and health care property portfolios.



**Ben Jakovljevic (JD 2014)** joined ADLI Law Group's civil litigation practice group as an associate attorney with a focus on business and real estate, as well as labor and employment issues. His experience includes preparing pleadings at all stages of litigation in state and federal appeals and serving as second chair in a federal trial against a foreign sovereign.

**Dale E. Manolakas (JD 1985)** has retired from being an administrative law judge and now writes legal thrillers. *Rogue Divorce Lawyer* is the latest release following *The Gun Trial* and four others.

**Kirk W. McAllister (JD 1969)** published *The Brady Book*, the first work dedicated exclusively to Brady v. Maryland issues of withheld exculpatory information.

Washington Supreme Court Justice **Sheryl Gordon McCloud (JD 1984)** is running for re-election, following her election in 2012 after nearly 30 years as a trial and appellate lawyer. Justice McCloud serves as chair of the Washington State Supreme Court's Gender & Justice Commission and is a member of the State Bar Association's Council on Public Defense.

JAMS announced the addition of **Donald L. Morrow (JD 1975)** to its panel in Orange County, Calif. Morrow joined the JAMS Resolution Center as an arbitrator, mediator and special master in a variety of disputes, including antitrust/competition, business/commercial, class action/mass tort, construction, intellectual property and professional liability. He joins JAMS after more than 40 years of significant trial and litigation experience, most recently practicing at Paul Hastings.

**Mary Jane Myers (JD 1974)** published her debut collection of short stories, *Curious Affairs*.

**Becky Newman (JD 2010)** was selected as a member of the Rautenberg New Leaders Project (NLP) — Class of 2018, coordinated by the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.

Rutan & Tucker named **Michael Page (BS/MBT 2007; JD 2010)** a partner in the Corporate/Securities/Tax section. His primary emphases are on tax planning and tax controversies, mergers & acquisitions, and corporate transactions.



NBCUniversal Domestic Television Distribution named **Roy Restivo (JD 1992)** senior vice president of sales strategy and research. Restivo, who has been with NBCUniversal for more than 16 years, will take on a leadership role to devise and implement strategic sales research for the roll out of first-run and off-network programming.



The Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles appointed **Ellen R.Z. Rosen (JD 1993)** general counsel. Rosen will primarily work on supporting The Foundation's more than 300 endowment funds and help to grow endowments and other charitable giving funds.

**David Ryan (LLM 2015)** founded Providential Law, a firm in Palo Alto that specializes in corporate counseling, executive asset protection and family asset protection.

**Todd Scherwin (JD 2005)**, managing partner at Fisher Phillips' Los Angeles office, has been named to the *Southern California Super Lawyers 2018*. Scherwin has been selected for the list each year since 2015.



Bet Tzedek honored **E. Randol Schoenberg (JD 1991)** at their annual dinner gala in February. Bet Tzedek provides free, comprehensive legal services for low-income individuals and families in Los Angeles.



**Stephen P. Sonnenberg (JD 1992)** joined the JAMS Resolution Center in New York as an arbitrator, mediator and special master in a variety of disputes, including business/commercial, employment, federal and health care. Sonnenberg joins JAMS after 25 years with Paul Hastings where he represented and advised clients in a wide range of employment disputes. During his law practice, Sonnenberg was also a mediator in complex employment matters. He has also mediated numerous matters as a member of the Mediation Panels of the U.S. District Court, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.



Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP named **Michael Szczurek (JD 2009)** a partner in their Los Angeles office. Szczurek represents a wide variety of real estate investors, lenders and developers in a broad spectrum of real estate transactions, including acquisitions and dispositions, financings of all forms, ground lease structuring and the negotiation of real estate joint ventures.

**J. Michael Vaughn (JD 1987)**, counsel to Stuart Kane LLP in Newport Beach, was named mayor of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.

*The Daily Journal* named **Perry Viscounty (JD 1987)**, a partner at Latham & Watkins LLP, one of the *Top Cyber/AI Lawyers for 2018*.



## USC GOULD GRADUATES CELEBRATE PASSING THE BAR

New lawyers take their oaths after passing the nation’s most difficult bar exam

**Nearly 100 USC Gould graduates returned to campus in December to mark an exciting milestone in their careers: admission to the bar.**

In a ceremony hosted by Dean Andrew Guzman, the newly minted lawyers were sworn in by USC law alumni judges, Lee Tsao (JD 1996) and Jackie Chooljian (JD 1986).

“This is an important occasion to commemorate our graduates’ final triumphant step towards a law career,” said Guzman. “This ceremony also commemorates the incredible

amount of time, support and love that your family and friends have given you.”

Judge Chooljian reminded the USC Gould graduates not to forget their roots.

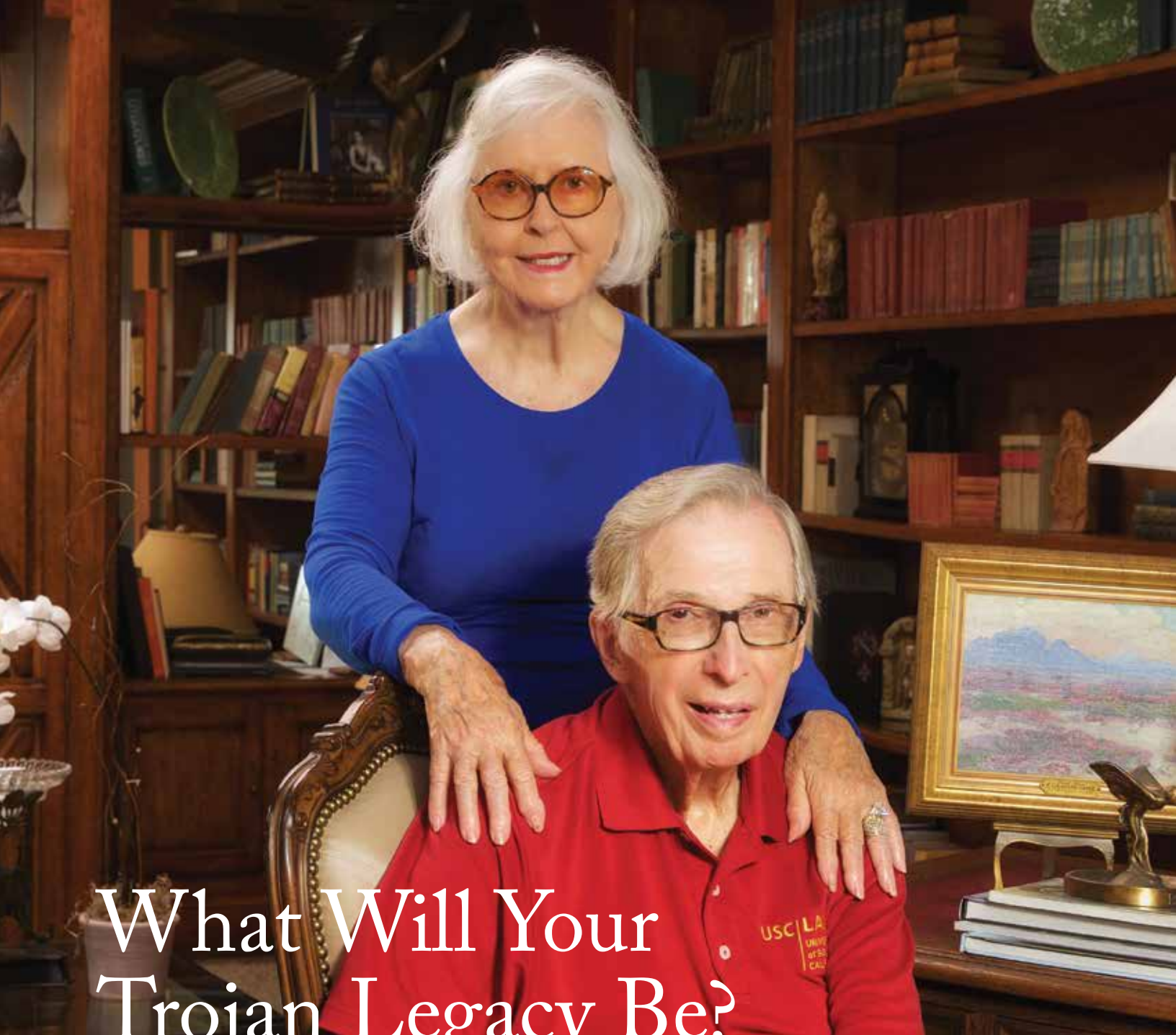
“You start with the tremendous advantage of having attended USC,” Chooljian said. “It has given you all a great foundation upon which to begin your legal careers. . . . As you may already have discovered, one of this university’s greatest assets is its alumni — whether you practice law or choose to use your law degree in another field, you are likely to encounter a fellow Trojan who is willing to lend a hand to help another alum. Anytime one Trojan succeeds it reflects well on all of us.”

USC Gould graduates said that small classes, approachable faculty and a rigorous curriculum prepared them for the bar.

Rebecca Berry (JD 2017) said USC Gould prepared her with intense rigor in a collegial environment.

“This has been a journey for me that ends and begins with my dream of being an official lawyer,” said Berry. 🏴‍☠️





# What Will Your Trojan Legacy Be?

For Neil Ash '50 and his wife, June, giving to the USC Gould School of Law meant setting up two charitable gift annuities, which provided them an income stream, and, most importantly, ensured a bright and promising future for generations of Trojans to come.

To create your Trojan legacy, contact Chloe Reid in the USC Gould Development and Alumni Relations Office at (213) 740-2610 or [PlannedGiving@law.usc.edu](mailto:PlannedGiving@law.usc.edu). You may also visit us online at [www.uscgould.giftplans.org](http://www.uscgould.giftplans.org).

"I always wanted to be a lawyer and never had any interest in any other institution than the University of Southern California. USC was way above everybody else in L.A."

NEIL ASH '50

THE CAMPAIGN *for the*  
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FAS REGNA TROJAE

**USC Law Magazine**  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, California 90089-0071

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# calendar

## **ORIENTATION 2018**

August 13-17  
*USC Gould School of Law*

## **GOULD REUNION 2018**

September 21-22  
*USC-University Park Campus*

## **TROJAN FAMILY WEEKEND 2018**

October 11-14  
*USC Gould School of Law*

## **BAR ADMISSION CEREMONY**

December 11  
*Town and Gown Ballroom*

## **CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE)**

### **2018 INSTITUTE ON ENTERTAINMENT LAW AND BUSINESS**

October 20  
*USC-University Park Campus*

### **2018 TRUST AND ESTATE CONFERENCE**

November 16  
*Westin Bonaventure*

### **2018 INSTITUTE FOR CORPORATE COUNSEL**

December 5  
*The California Club*

### **2019 TAX INSTITUTE**

January 28-30  
*Millennium Biltmore Hotel*

***For details about these events and others,  
please visit: [gould.usc.edu/events](http://gould.usc.edu/events)***

