

USC MAGAZINE Law

FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF THE USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW ISSUE 10 | SPRING/SUMMER 2017



**FLIPPING THE
FIRST-YEAR
FORMULA**



USC Gould



PHOTO BY MIKEL HEALEY

At USC Gould, we pride ourselves on being collegial and collaborative. So when I meet with students, I'm pleased to learn that while they were expecting law school to be the biggest challenge of their academic lives, they weren't expecting to also feel such a strong sense of belonging.

For this, I credit our faculty who take the time to reassure a first-year student, our alumni who go out of their way to offer both professional and personal advice, and our Admissions team who work to attract a top-tier and diverse class.

You can meet a few of our students beginning on p. 6. On the surface, they may seem atypical — such as rapper Roosh Faegh or ballerina Emma Tehrani — but within our community, we celebrate a wide range of backgrounds and cultures.

And our formula seems to be working, as we posted our strongest bar passage rate in five years and the second highest in the state for two years in a row. Given the California Bar is one of the most grueling bar exams in the country, this is truly a great achievement.

I am delighted to announce more great news, as Niels Frenzen, who heads the USC Immigration Clinic, will be installed as the Sydney M. and Audrey M. Irmas Endowed Clinical Professor. This is the school's first named clinical law professorship. I am grateful to Audrey Irmas for her critical support of Niels' life-saving work with the clinic.

"I think you'll see that what sets us apart from the others isn't just how rigorously we prepare our students for their chosen careers, but how we encourage them to reinvent what it means to be a lawyer."

At Gould, we are also fortunate to boast a robust alumni network, with Frank Gooch '76 representing the ideal of "giving back." Countless students have relied upon Frank's sage advice as they made their way through law school. And when these students become alumni, they invite Frank to their weddings and continue to consult him on changes in their careers.

We know every law school experience is not the same. And I think you'll see that what sets us apart from the others isn't just how rigorously we prepare our students for their chosen careers, but how we encourage them to reinvent what it means to be a lawyer.

Welcome to the new normal!

Andrew T. Guzman

Dean and Carl Mason Franklin Chair in Law





FEATURE STORY

6 MEET THE NEW NORMAL

Four future lawyers illustrate the range of backgrounds and cultures at USC Gould, where the collegial environment embraces diversity.



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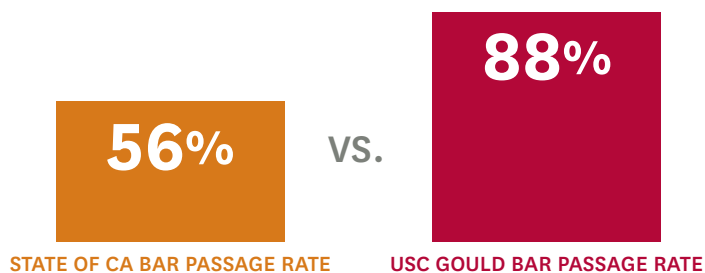
FROM “I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR” TO “FIGHT ON!”



USC Gould School of Law posted its strongest bar passage in five years.

2016 & 2017

2nd highest rate in California for 2 years in a row



Bar passage rate for first-time takers in 2016

“These results are tremendous, and I couldn’t be more proud of our graduates.... This is truly a great achievement given the California Bar had the lowest pass rate in more than 30 years.”

—Dean Andrew Guzman

10+ YEARS

For more than a decade, USC Gould has been one of the top performers among California law schools.

GLOBAL FOCUS FOR NEW CENTER

With the aim of providing world-class policy analysis, scholarly research and educational opportunities, the USC Center for Transnational Law and Business (CTLB) kicked off 2017 with its inaugural conference, drawing an engaged crowd from around the globe.



The Antitrust Enforcement in a Global Context: Extraterritoriality and Due Process conference was held on Jan. 13 and 14 at the USC campus, co-sponsored by USC Gould Dean Andrew Guzman and Professor Daniel Sokol of the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

"Today we are focused on transparency, due process and comity in global antitrust proceedings," Guzman told the attendees who hailed from China, Japan, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Australia, Brazil, India, Hong Kong, Canada and the United States.

Launched at the USC Gould School of Law last fall, the CTLB promotes policy analysis, research and education on global law and business. Brian Peck, a top international trade specialist in Gov. Jerry Brown's administration, serves as CTLB's director.

"As the first major event for the center, this conference allows us to establish ourselves and to show that we are already fulfilling our mission, which is to provide a home for scholarly research to find practical solutions to make it easier for companies to conduct business overseas," Peck said. 🚩

—Julie Riggott

Find out more about the USC Center for Transnational Law and Business: gould.usc.edu/centers/ctlb/

CTLB Director Brian Peck greets one of the conference attendees. The conference, co-sponsored by Dean Andrew Guzman, offered opportunities for deep discussion on timely anti-trust issues.

75 YEARS LATER: FIVE STUDENTS REFLECT ON EO 9066



On Feb. 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which paved the way for the forced removal and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese-Americans from the West Coast during World War II.

"This historical event reminds us of the incredible power of law and the critical ways in which it affects both individuals and our society," stated USC Gould Dean Andrew Guzman. "To some members of our community, however, these events are also personal. Members of our community and their families were affected by Japanese internment during the war."

Upon the 75th anniversary of EO 9066, five Gould students (Cynthia Chiu '19, Stephanie Howell '18, Mike Mikawa '17, Kenneth Oshita '17 and Monica Parra '19) graciously shared their family's stories with us.

Some of them related that their family's experience helped to fuel their passion for public service, civil rights as well as

their pursuit of a career in law. Cynthia Chiu '19 wrote: "I think that lawyers are in a position of power to make a difference and to stand up for others."

This spring, the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA) commemorates these experiences by collecting additional stories. If you would like to participate, you are invited to send your story to apalsa@lawmail.usc.edu. 🚩

Read the student testimonials at: gould.law/75yearsater



Top: 1L Cynthia Chiu's grandmother on the day she graduated from Denson High, located at the Jerome Relocation Center in Arkansas.

Bottom: Mike Mikawa '17 made a pilgrimage to the Poston Camp in Arizona.

GOULD QUOTABLES



"We think ending the use of driver's license suspension would be humane and very sensible. It's insane from a public policy point of view to take away people's means of livelihood while also saddling them with crushing debt."

Prof. **CLARE PASTORE** quoted in the *Daily Journal* about a bill that may halt driver's licenses for people who say they can't pay



"Depending how this plays out, it's going to be even more significant given the change in administration. It's either going to facilitate the Trump administration with increasing its immigration enforcement, or it might place some limits on the [new] administration's plans."

Prof. **NIELS FRENZEN**, director of the USC Gould Immigration Clinic, from an interview with *U.S. News & World Report* regarding Supreme Court case *Jennings v. Rodriguez*



"Over the last 50 years, U.S. courts have been narrowing the concept of 'corruption' in their campaign finance decisions. Today the term only applies to bribes."

Prof. **ABBY WOOD**, quoted by BBC Brazil about how hardening of laws has created sophisticated corruption in the U.S.

NEW ADR DEGREES DESIGNED TO ELEVATE CAREERS

This fall, USC became the first top 20 law school to offer a Master of Dispute Resolution and a Master of Laws in Alternative Dispute Resolution, one of the fastest-growing areas of law and business.

Intended for attorneys and business professionals, the new degrees demonstrate USC Gould's commitment to training the next generation of professionals in arbitration and mediation.

With less than 3 percent of lawsuits making it to trial, ADR has become a vital tool for attorneys and business professionals, according to Prof. Lisa Klerman, director of USC Gould's Judge Judith O. Hollinger Program in Alternative Dispute Resolution.

"It is no secret that companies and the courts are relying on mediation and ADR to avoid high court costs. We are in a unique position to train both lawyers and business professionals in this growing area," Klerman said. 🏠

—Gilien Silsby

More information: gould.law/ADR

FOUR FELLOWSHIPS, ONE SCHOLAR



USC Gould Prof. Ariela Gross has been awarded four prestigious fellowships to support a book project offering a broad perspective on law, race and slavery.

Gross and her co-author, Alejandro de la Fuente, a professor of Latin American history and economics at Harvard, are undertaking the first comparative study of slaves and free people of color in the Americas using the techniques of cultural-legal history. Their book, *Comparing Law, Slavery, Race and Freedom in the Americas: Cuba, Louisiana and Virginia, 1500-1868* is scheduled to be published in 2019.

Together, Gross and de la Fuente were awarded an American Council of Learned Societies Collaborative Research Fellowship. Individually, Gross received fellowships from the Stanford Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) and the Princeton University Law and Public Affairs Program, as well as a USC Advancing Scholarship in the Humanities and Social Sciences. (Gross declined the Princeton fellowship in order to be in residence at Stanford's CASBS next year.)

The fellowships will enable Gross and de la Fuente to devote a year to their book project, continuing research in Cuba, Louisiana and Virginia, as well as in archives in Spain and the Caribbean.

"Ariela will not only be writing history, but contributing to it," said Alex Capron, dean of faculty of USC Gould. "The law school community couldn't be prouder to have such an accomplished colleague as Ariela Gross." 🏠

—Gilien Silsby

LEADING JURIST JOINS LIVELY CONVERSATION

With a new U.S. president recently inaugurated, the timing was ideal for a conversation on “The Future of the Judiciary” with the Hon. Alex Kozinski, Dean Andrew Guzman and Professor Sam Erman. One of the leading jurists in the country, Judge Kozinski serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In 1985, when he was appointed by Pres.

Ronald Reagan, Kozinski became the youngest judge on the federal appeals court.

Dean Guzman and Prof. Erman led the Jan. 24 discussion with questions on the federal judicial confirmation process. Kozinski, a conservative who is well-known for his candor, offered insight into the behind-the-scenes politics. “I have been the beneficiary of this process, and I have known the judges who are appointed to be my colleagues, and they are absolutely marvelous,” he said. “People fret about the confirmation process as being too difficult. But as a result, we have gotten some very good judges.”

The conversation was part of the Justice Lester W. Roth lecture series and open to the USC community. The crowd was “standing room only,” comprised of law faculty and students eager to hear firsthand from a federal judge whose decisions they often read in their casebooks and analyze in their classrooms. 🗞

—Anne Bergman



The Justice Lester W. Roth lecture series is made possible by a gift from the Louis and Florence Cohen Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles. The Honorable Lester W. Roth (Class of 1916) served as Justice of the California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District 1964-1992.

SEEKING A SOLUTION TO A WICKED PROBLEM: HOMELESSNESS

USC Gould students took the lead on a year-long Wicked Problems Practicum (WPP) to tackle one specific aspect of poverty — the connection between prior convictions and the risk of homelessness.

In all, the course brought together 19 students from four USC schools (Gould, the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy and the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work) as well as community stakeholders, including A New Way of Life, the Anti-Recidivist Coalition, the Los Angeles Mayor’s Office and the city attorney.

The proposition that clusters of schools at USC should combine their efforts to tackle the most intractable problems of



our time originated with the Office of the Provost. USC Gould Prof. Camille Gear Rich, who also serves as associate provost for faculty and student initiatives, developed and conceptualized the WPP, coming up with the course’s theme. Professors Clare Pastore (USC Gould), Roberto Suro (USC Annenberg and USC Price) and Seth Kurzban (USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck) led students through the practicum, focused on homelessness and incarceration.

Students presented their work recently at a half-day conference at the law school. They researched how a history of incarceration impacts the risk of homelessness upon re-entry, analyzed the relevant legal issues and examined the feasibility of possible solutions.

Pastore, who has worked extensively on public policy problems in the areas of poverty and civil rights, likes the interdisciplinary approach because “in the real world there is no ‘wicked problem’ or public policy issue that is solved by lawyers alone, nor by social workers, policy experts or other disciplines working alone.” 🗞

—Christina Schweighofer

To learn more about the homelessness problem in L.A., Gould students toured Skid Row.

Meet the New

Four future lawyers illustrate the range of backgrounds and cultures at USC Gould

By Diane Krieger

In mid-April, as her classmates cleared their schedules for the blood-pounding sprint to 1L finals, Emma Tehrani was serenely practicing her pliés, grand battements and tour jetés in weekly rehearsals with the USC Chamber Ballet Company. The student club held its spring showcase in Bovard Auditorium just weeks before Tehrani's first final.

A classically trained dancer in law school is surely an outlier. But in some ways, Tehrani is the new normal at the USC Gould School of Law, where millennials are jettisoning stereotypes and carving out new and distinct pathways. Many USC Gould students entered law school this year with rich diversity of experience — they have launched businesses, pursued performance opportunities, worked on public interest campaigns or traveled the world.

Demographically, Tehrani is hardly atypical. Twenty-two, female, fresh-out-of-college. Ambitious, bright, uncertain about the future. She's also wise beyond her years, battle-hardened by a near-death health crisis and passionate about living fully — which, for her, means practicing, performing and teaching ballet. It also means copious amounts of community service. She's the 1L representative for four USC Gould student organizations.

"In the 1980s, the cliché was that law students were looking to go into Big Law, make partner and join a country club," says USC Gould Dean of Students Kyle Jones '98. "Or that they wanted careers in corporations or politics. Today, those generalizations seem absurd. This generation is reinventing who lawyers are and what we do. I predict that within a decade, the shark jokes will have disappeared from pop culture. They're already fading."

Cookie-cutter solutions don't resonate with this generation, adds USC Gould Dean of Admissions David Kirschner. Their carefully curated Spotify playlists are apt metaphors for millennials' self-image: no two the same. That ethos meshes well with USC Gould's intimate, collegial and nurturing culture.

"We encourage and embrace our students' desire to take charge and customize their legal training," Kirschner says. "Gould faculty take individual students under their wings, helping them prepare for careers while staying true to themselves. That's a big part of what separates USC Gould from peer institutions with larger classes and a more regimented approach."

Meet four 1Ls who, in their different ways, illustrate the diversity that is embraced at USC Gould.



Normal



Roosh Faegh isn't easily fazed. "I've been through a lot," says the 27-year-old professional hip-hop artist from Houston, Texas. Yet the first year at USC Gould has been the biggest challenge of his academic life. "They stack it on you. But I don't let it get to me. I know what I'm capable of. And I really appreciate the supportive environment. The professors do everything they can to help you get through."

How does a successful rapper become a law student?

In the cartography of possible roads to law school, Faegh's has to be one of the least traveled.



ROOSH FAEGH

AGE: 27

HOMETOWN: Houston

FAVORITE PROFESSOR: Ron Garet, Law, Language and Values. "There were times in the first semester when I was down and very stressed. I went to his office, and he was ready to put everything aside and just talk to me. Hear me out. It was therapeutic. I feel blessed to have him as a resource."

EXTRACURRICULARS: "Do we have time for extracurriculars? I'm in class all day. If I get a chance, I'll go to the Lyon Center and play some basketball."

CAREER GOAL: "Ideally I'm going to go into politics later in life. I know how to command crowds. For now, I want to work on entertainment law. I'd like to take what I know about the business and marry that to what I know about the law. A lot of artists get taken advantage of."

"Who I am today — a lot of it comes from my parents and family," he says. As long as he can remember, Faegh has inhabited two worlds: an American one, filled with hip-hop music, and a Persian one.

"It kind of trips me out sometimes, because I wasn't supposed to be here," he says. Faegh's dad came from Iran to study economics at the University of Houston in 1976. He and his

wife hadn't intended to stay, but when the Khomeinist revolution erupted back home, the young couple decided to put down roots in America. Today Faegh's father teaches economics at Houston Community College, and his mom owns and operates a beauty salon. Their American-born

children speak flawless Farsi — perfected over long summers visiting their many aunts, uncles and cousins back in Iran.

"I've been stuck in between cultures," says the rapper-turned-law student.

But he could rap. His flair for freestyling had first emerged in the back of a school bus in sixth grade. By high school, he'd attracted a local following that grew as an undergrad as he started working fraternity parties at the University of Texas, Texas Tech and Oklahoma University.

It was fun, but by no means a life plan.

After focusing on academics, Faegh got admitted to UT Austin, majored in corporate communications and set his sights on becoming a lawyer.

His plans were complicated by musical success. Already registered for the LSAT and taking the Kaplan prep course, his hip-hop career suddenly spiked in 2010.

"I started getting booked," he says. Faegh found himself opening in Houston clubs for up-and-coming artists like Kendrick Lamar and other future Grammy winners, pocketing \$800 a night for a half-hour's work. Dazzled, he put his legal ambition on hold.

Four years and five albums later, his 2015 release *Unorthodox* debuted at No. 40 on the iTunes sales chart. Interviewed on Sirius XM's "Sway in the Morning," Faegh's freestyle drew a nod of approval from the hip-hop kingmaker.

"I was like, man, it's going to go all the way," he recalls thinking. "I'm going to go national."

Standing at a crossroads, Faegh eyed this bright future ... and decided to go to law school.

"I didn't want to be boxed in," he says. "I hated being categorized as 'a rapper.' I have tons of other skills, and I want to add more to my arsenal."

Admitted to USC, he moved to L.A. with his longtime girlfriend and their puppy. "This is a great place to be," he says. "The Trojan Network. USC's links to entertainment. There should be great opportunities for me."

It's hard not to like Faegh, notes USC Gould's Ron Garett, who had him in his legal reasoning course, "Law, Language and Values," last fall.

"Soroosh is a charismatic young man with exceptional potential for leadership," Garett says. "He's secure enough in his identity and values to express himself candidly, vividly and frankly, so his classmates and instructors can engage with him dynamically."



JULIE GANTZ

AGE: 27

HOMETOWN: San Diego

FAVORITE PROFESSOR: Rebecca Brown for both Constitutional Law: Structure, and Constitutional Law: Rights. "She is incredibly brilliant and engaging and creates a space where she challenges us to figure out constitutional arguments, supports all of our ideas and helps us develop them on our own. But truthfully, all the professors here are so accomplished. There's a great mix of full-time and part-time faculty who teach and are also practicing. I love having exposure to all those perspectives."

EXTRACURRICULARS: Environmental Law Society, the Health Law Society, the American Constitution Society. She also bakes. "As crazy as 1L life has been so far, it's one of the few hobbies I've held on to. I love baking desserts, they're delicious. I love bringing them to school and sharing them with classmates."

CAREER GOAL: I would love to have my own law consulting practice, steer my own ship, chart out however I feel I could have the most impact, do the most good. Maybe partner with a team of people who have the same idea. I guess I want my own version of the Margaret Mead quote: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.' I want to make that happen.

When it comes to one-of-a-kind 1Ls, it's hard to top Julie Gantz. The San Diego native is pursuing her legal education in reverse order. She earned her LLM degree in 2015, and is only now following up with a JD.

That master's degree came from the Shanghai Jiao Tong University's KoGuan Law School. Her thesis topic: a study of river basin management comparing China's Yellow River with the Colorado River of the American West. Her conclusion: both nations could take some pointers from the other.

Ever since Gantz was young, she has taken ownership of her education. Homeschooled

through most of elementary and middle school, she loved the freedom it gave her. “I could go wherever I wanted to go. My learning was all my responsibility,” she says. As an eighth grader, she devoted a whole year to studying the Civil Rights movement. For her capstone project on the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, she telephoned heroes of the school desegregation struggle and cajoled them into granting her long interviews. That project took first prize for her age group at the 2004 National History Day Contest.

Becoming a lawyer wasn’t an easy decision for Gantz. She seriously considered the foreign service, majoring in international politics at Georgetown University’s Walsh School of Foreign Service. She had a knack for languages. Already proficient in Spanish, she took up Mandarin in high school, and added Portuguese at Georgetown, along with a minor in Asian studies. But something about the diplomatic life made her uncomfortable. “I didn’t like the idea of not having control over where I live for a good chunk of years,” she says.

Civil rights law or environmental law seemed like attractive alternatives. “I just went for it,” she says. “I applied for jobs, scholarship opportunities. I knew I’d be happy in Shanghai.” Her Mandarin was up to the challenge, she knew, having spent the previous summer there. When the Chinese government green-lighted a scholarship to KoGuan Law School, Gantz took the plunge.

“I was the only person in the class who didn’t already have a law degree from their home country,” she says. Her classmates in the two-year LLM program came from places like North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Brazil, Argentina and the Netherlands. Instruction was in English, but Gantz pushed her Mandarin proficiency to the limit with her Yellow River field research, digging through hundreds of original government documents.

Returning to California for the Colorado River portion of her field research, Gantz landed a job in Qualcomm’s government affairs department, analyzing international patent law. These experiences cemented her decision to become a lawyer. “International law and water have my heart,” she says. “They are immediate and pressing, addressing real-world problems.”

Gantz applied to USC and was awarded the coveted 2019 Frank Rothman Scholarship and a Stanley and Ilene Gold Honors Scholarship.

STUART SUMMERVILLE

AGE: 19

HOMETOWN: Indianapolis

FAVORITE PROFESSOR: Jody Armour, Torts 1. “I really appreciate the way he is confident enough to stick by his values. I literally soak up everything he says. Being able to learn from him my first semester was amazing. Not only is he well-respected and wildly brilliant, but he knows how to translate ideas to a real-world perspective, thinking about things relevant to our lives and putting them in this intellectual context. For example, to think about things like Colin Kaepernick taking a knee before the football games on Sundays.”

EXPECTATIONS: I’ve made ‘forever friends,’ people who I know I’ll be really close to for a long time. The transition to law school is definitely a lot easier with a support system. Meeting the demands of law school was tough at first because I’d never done anything like this before. Coming into it, I had bought into the myth that law school was reserved for a special collection of people. But the welcoming culture around Gould has removed all of that anxiety.”

EXTRACURRICULARS: Black Law Students Association, Street Law

CAREER GOAL: I want to work at the intersection of art, entertainment and social justice. But I’m also fascinated by studying the law. My dream would be to work in some way with one of my favorite artists like Chance the Rapper, or a music label like Top Dawg Entertainment. I want to work with an entertainment management group that promotes social justice.



"I know that taking a slightly longer and different route to law school has helped me be more confident in being here, knowing this is where I want to be," says the 1L.

Nontraditional students like Gantz light up a classroom, says USC Gould's Rebecca Brown. "I really enjoy the enthusiasm Julie brings," says the constitutional law professor and holder of the Rader Family Trustee Chair in Law. "It's a quality I often see in students with deep interests outside the walls of the law school."

There's a sweetness and candor to Stuart Summerville that distinguishes him from most 1Ls. And there's the glaring age difference, too. Summerville is only 19.

A gold cross and a "justice fist" hang around his neck, surrounded by stylish Beats headphones. His wrists are covered in Lokai beads and braided bracelets, all with special significance that he'll gladly explain.

"This one is for Alzheimer's awareness. This one is for the billion baby turtles. This was made by former sex-trafficking victims in the Philippines." Asked about the word tattoos on his biceps, he'll tell you how a poem attributed to Mother Teresa inspired the one on the right. It consists of the word "Anyway" spelled out with ribboned flourishes of Summerville's own design. A companion tattoo, the word "All," on the left bicep, he'll tell you, is a reminder that the things you do "anyway" can't be pursued half-heartedly. "You need to give everything your all," he says.

Born and raised in Indianapolis, Summerville is the youngest of four academically talented boys. His parents divorced when he was 7, but they shared custody and provided stability. Still, there were hard times, especially the times Summerville's mom was laid off from work, and when she was recovering from surgery for colon cancer. "I'm all too familiar with welfare and government assistance programs," he says.

Stuart and his brothers attended Park Tudor, an elite Indianapolis private school on scholarship.

"My friends were extremely wealthy," Summerville says. "They lived in mansions. My mom made a lot of sacrifices to send us there. I didn't realize it at the time, but asking if I could go on trips to Cabo San Lucas was hard on her."

Graduating just days after he turned 17, with a year's worth of AP college credit under his belt, Summerville raced through Indiana University in just two years, taking the maximum course load, including



summer sessions, while maintaining a 3.84 GPA. A journalism major, he'd intended to become a reporter, but as the Ferguson crisis unfolded 200 miles from Bloomington, he realized, "Reporting on the news wouldn't be enough for me. I really wanted to change things, and I know I can do that with a law degree. I hope to use my law school education to work at the intersection of art, culture, social justice and legal awareness. My aspirations are aligned in an effort to help people understand the world around them and express and find themselves within it."

Summerville applied to law schools, and pounced on USC Gould's admissions offer. As a warm up, he spent last summer interning for Indianapolis law firm Taft Stettinius & Hollister. "I'm just a kid from the Midwest, so it was a little scary leaving my family," he says. "Being so young, I was worried that I would be an outsider at law school, but I can't say enough about how welcoming and supportive everyone has been."

"It's OK if you don't understand something right away," Summerville says. "There are so many incredible professors around that you can ask. USC is great about offering help."

Being younger than his classmates is nothing new for Summerville. He endured snarky comments and casual bullying all through secondary school because of it. At USC Gould, he's finding that being atypical isn't a disadvantage. "I've learned so much and made many friends that I think I'll know for a lifetime," he says. "I'm definitely glad I'm here."

Looking out for Summerville is USC Gould Professor Ron Garet, who in addition to teaching his Law, Language and Values course, happens to be faculty-in-residence at Terrace, the university-owned apartment that's home to Summerville and 60 other first-year law students.

"Stu speaks from the heart and directly from his life experience," says Garet, who holds the Carolyn Franklin Craig Chair in Law and Religion. "I learn from him, and I know that other members of our class do, too."

As for Emma Tehrani, to call her a ballerina is merely to scratch the surface of this very unusual 1L.

For starters, the Phoenix native has a classical education that would impress John Milton. Four years of Latin and



two years of ancient Greek, acquired at a top charter school, Veritas Prep, led to a merit scholarship at the University of Chicago, where Tehrani double majored in political science and psychology. She added French to her linguistic quiver, which came in handy when she interned in the Paris offices of Winston & Strawn in fall 2014.

Running parallel with this bookish, brainy streak in Tehrani is her passionate love of dance. Starting with ballet at 3, she later switched to Irish step dance. By 12, she was competing at the regional level before going back to ballet in her sophomore year of high

stubbornly ignored it for days, determined to power through midterms on over-the-counter pain relievers. By the time she went to the ER, she was gravely ill with an undiagnosed blood disorder, *idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura*, which had decimated her platelets. A series of transfusions led to life-threatening clots in her legs and lungs.

Looking back, Tehrani traces her decision to go to law school to that crisis. Were it not for the support system in place for her — college advisors, attentive parents, top physicians and excellent health insurance — she might have died. Her passion for public

interest law and civil rights is rooted in this experience. “So many people don’t have that support system,” she says. Tehrani feels a deep obligation to advocate for them.

“Emma approaches legal problems not just as an abstraction but with concern for how they affect people in the world,” says Rebecca Brown, Tehrani’s Constitutional law professor. “She’s a great example of how the arts and experience with vulnerable populations can help students have a deeper and richer understanding of law.”

Today, Tehrani dances and studies hard to be a lawyer. Being at USC allows her to do both passionately and well.

EMMA TEHRANI

AGE: 22

HOMETOWN: Phoenix

FAVORITE PROFESSOR: Rebecca Brown for both the required and the elective first-year constitutional law classes. “Professor Brown does an amazing job of making dense, complex concepts understandable and engaging. I learned so much from her class and felt truly empowered to study a subject that I had previously found intimidating.”

IMPRESSION OF USC GOULD: It’s an incredible mix of people. One of my favorite things is feeling I can learn so much, not just from professors but from my fellow students. I have a friend who worked in fine-arts shipping for seven years before coming to law school. We can all learn lessons from our different backgrounds.

EXPECTATIONS: People always tell you about the workload and the stress, but when you are working so hard on something that you feel passionately about, there’s a joy that I didn’t expect.”

EXTRACURRICULARS: USC’s Chamber Ballet Company, The Public Interest Law Foundation, the International Refugee Assistance Project, the Women’s Law Association, and Connecting Angeleno to Resources & Essential Services (CARES).

CAREER GOAL: “I’m interested in working in litigation. I could see myself there. My main goal is to balance my own career aspiration with something that benefits my community. Lawyers have immense power and knowledge to influence the world around them, and some take advantage of that more than others.”

school. At Chicago, she threw herself into a robust student dance community, often taking four classes a week and performing in full-length classical ballets.

“I danced in every single performance they had, except one when I was injured,” says Tehrani. Her farewell role was the Diamond Fairy in *Sleeping Beauty*. Backstage roles included club marketing chair, financial director and executive director.

Dance — or rather, a dance accident — has even shaped Tehrani’s legal thinking. A poorly landed jump in ballet class resulted in a fractured fifth metatarsal during her sophomore year. Tehrani

Whenever I need an outline, I have so many people who are willing to send it over. It’s so much more friendly than other places. I think that’s huge.”

Sometimes reputation and reality actually converge.

“Everyone talks up how collegial USC is,” Tehrani says. “I was skeptical. But when I came to visit and talked with some students, I was just amazed. It seemed like a really supportive community where people were trying to lift each other up rather than compete. And now that I’ve been here as a 1L, I can say my intuitions were correct.” 🍷

All four students describe a sense of being embraced at USC Gould.

“The people here are so nice,” says Faegh. “The student body and the faculty both.

A Life Beyond Prison

Client of Post-Conviction Justice Project reflects on his 41-year fight for release

By Gilien Silsby

When it comes to the circumstances of the crime, no case in USC's Post-Conviction Justice Project is ever the same. But for innocent clients, it is not about the crimes that were not theirs in the first place. It is about the anguish they feel in the face of injustice. And how they hold up in the face of a wrongful conviction. Very often, it is by fighting for release and a life beyond prison.

Case in point: Marvin Mutch. Convicted of a murder at age 18, he spent 41 years in prison despite multiple appeals and valiant efforts by the California Innocence

Project. With less than a year of freedom under his belt, Mutch, 60, visited USC Gould to speak to PCJP students about his legal journey. "I had a long path to freedom," Mutch says. "What kept me going was to keep looking forward to see what was on the horizon."

During his decades-long incarceration, Mutch threw himself into prison advocacy work, which helped dull the sting of parole denials and the hopelessness of the prison environment.

Mutch successfully advocated for humane treatment of prisoners, de-escalated potentially violent situations

and served as a mediator to promote tolerance. He was also elected state-wide chairman of the Men's Advisory Council, a group that serves as liaisons between the Calif. Dept. of Corrections administration and inmates.

He left San Quentin a leader, drawing admiration from fellow prisoners, correctional officers and prison administration.

"Looking back, my actions were often compelled by my own lifelong need to realize fairness and a just resolution over things I perceived as unjust," he says. "This did not always make me popular with those who kept the watch. But I had the drive to make sure that due process was followed, that policy made sense and that the stakeholders were

heard. Those accomplishments made the wall dividing the incarcerated from the rest of the world seem manageable."

Sara Pitt '17 says that hearing Mutch's story is a reminder of the important work PCJP does.

"Our meeting with Mr. Mutch re-lit the group's passion to help other clients achieve the same freedom," she says. "I spoke with Mr. Mutch a number of times over the phone while he was still incarcerated, so it was so wonderful to be able to speak to him face to face."

Find out more about the Post-Conviction Justice Project:
uscpcjp.com

Marvin Mutch, right, meets with PCJP co-director Heidi Rummel and student Alex Kirkpatrick '17.



Project. Because he maintained his innocence, Marvin Mutch was denied parole at 21 hearings. That is, until last year, when the PCJP represented him at his final parole hearing and where he was found suitable for release.

"Our success in convincing the parole board to grant parole must be tempered by the injustice of a man who has served 40 years for a crime he did not commit," says Heidi Rummel, co-director of the PCJP. "Marvin is one of a kind. As soon as I met him, I understood he was going to be a very interesting client."

NEW NOTABLE COURSES

Three spring offerings showcase innovation, the legal profession and aid for veterans

LAWYERS 101

USC Gould's current and former deans teamed up to teach an undergraduate course on "The Legal Profession" to help answer the question, "How do I become a lawyer?"

Dean Andrew Guzman and former Dean Robert Rasmussen designed the first-of-its-kind course together as a primer for students interested in the law and in developing a better understanding of a wide range of legal practice areas.

"Law school is where we make our leaders," says Guzman. "What we do in law school is not just training future lawyers, we train people who run every part of our society."



Each week, Rasmussen and Guzman invite leading practitioners to discuss how their law degree elevated their career. Speakers include Warner Bros. entertainment lawyer Matt Matzkin '00 and Amy Forbes '84, co-partner in charge of the L.A. office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher.

"We want students to come to law school with an appreciation of what it's like to be a lawyer," says Rasmussen. "This really isn't a job; it's a profession. When you become a lawyer, it becomes part of your identity." 📖

—Gilien Silsby

AID FOR VETERANS

When Dwight Stirling '00, co-founder of the Veterans Legal Institute (VLI), saw the need to train more lawyers in veteran law, he decided to collaborate with Laura Riley '10 on designing and teaching the Veterans Legal Practicum.

Offered for the first time in 2017, the elective course teaches law students various aspects of veteran law as they concurrently provide free, quality representation to veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Alongside attorneys at the Veterans Legal Institute, students work directly with veterans on discharge upgrades, disability compensation appeals and other substantive legal matters. Stirling, a military veteran, served as a chief prosecutor for the California



National Guard. Riley is a practicing public interest attorney and former president of the Public Interest Law Foundation.

By combining theoretical study with hands-on representation, students develop skills necessary to deal with an often-vulnerable client population who may be contending with substance abuse or mental health problems, challenges that most often stem from their time in uniform. They learn to collaborate with professionals from other disciplines, such as social workers, physicians and mental health workers, and to advocate on behalf of clients. 📖

—Traude Gomez

LEGAL DESIGN LAB

To teach students how to revolutionize the current legal system, Prof. Gillian Hadfield (see p. 20) and husband Prof. Dan Ryan created a Legal Design Lab at Gould available spring 2017.

Ryan is also Visiting Professor of Teaching Arts, Technology, and the Business of Innovation at USC's Iovine and Young Academy.

According to Hadfield, the course is aimed at training the next generation to approach law and legal services in new and innovative ways by using strategies from design thinking, lean start-ups and human-centered design. The course tackles some tough questions like: can people get legal advice from algorithms, use



virtual reality to make choices about contracts and privacy, or reduce corruption using a platform based on blockchain?

By the end of the course, Hadfield and Ryan challenge their students to pitch one idea about how to deliver regulation or legal services better and create a prototype of how it would actually work in the real world. In short, Hadfield and Ryan are teaching their students not just how the legal system works, but how it can be revolutionized for everyone's good. 📖

—Carren Jao

DESTINED FOR SUCCESS

The Small Business Clinic celebrates 10-year anniversary

By Gilien Silsby

Professor Michael Chasalow knows firsthand that launching a startup requires both legal acumen and entrepreneurial skills. Before joining the USC faculty in 2001, Chasalow spent more than a decade providing business and legal consulting to new companies and working with private equity investments in high-tech startups.

Many SBC alumni credit their professional success to Chasalow and the clinic.

“I wouldn’t be where I am in my career had it not been for the clinic and Professor Chasalow’s mentorship,” says Tony Thai ’14, assistant general counsel, YP LLC (formerly the Yellow Pages). “I adjusted to practicing law right off the bat as a corporate attorney because I was

“The skills that I honed while working in the Small Business Clinic have contributed to my ability to overcome steep learning curves at work” —Olivia Su ’14, a senior tax associate at Ernst & Young

And so, when Chasalow founded USC’s Small Business Clinic in 2007, his unique background shaped the goals for the program: provide law students with practice-ready transactional skills and offer free legal services to fledgling business owners.

Ten years later, his brainchild has evolved into one of the area’s most respected legal clinics. More than 85 USC law students have helped 750 clients draft and review contracts, set up corporations and LLCs, draft terms of use for websites and mobile apps and complete countless filings and corporate documents required when setting up a business. Clients run the gamut from food truck owners to children’s book authors, beekeepers, microbrewers, nonprofits that bring theater programs to elementary schools and crisis centers that help victims of violent crimes.

taught the foundational skills and knowledge through the clinic. I was able to start on exciting and meaningful work even as a junior attorney.”

This is exactly what Chasalow was hoping the clinic would achieve. “Students who have worked in the SBC are more comfortable handling projects, working with partners and interacting with clients,” he says.

In addition to instilling technical skills and attention to detail, the clinic teaches students how to work with clients and how to “manage a supervisor.”

“I will often tell students how a partner might respond to a particular behavior or work ethic to let them know what will be successful and what might cause them problems in the professional world,” says Chasalow.

Clinic alumni currently hold a range of positions in and out of the legal field — from successful attorneys



Prof. Michael Chasalow, with members of 2017's Small Business Clinic. "When I think back on the 85 students who have passed through the clinic, I realize that I have learned as much from them as they have from the clinic," he says.

at major law firms and in-house counsel to business owners operating their own successful ventures.

"The skills that I honed while working in the Small Business Clinic have contributed to my ability to overcome steep learning curves at work," says Olivia Su '14, a senior tax associate at Ernst & Young. "I wanted to obtain additional insight into realistic business issues and learn how to resolve them. Professor Chasalow and the Small Business Clinic gave me this."

Chasalow, who received both the 2016 Student Bar Association award for outstanding faculty member and the 2016 William A. Rutter Distinguished Teaching

Award, says he is honored to lay the groundwork for attorneys interested in business.

"When I think back on the 85 students who have passed through the clinic, I realize that I have learned as much from them as they have from the clinic," he says. "I have been so fortunate to have been able to work with such phenomenal students, and, although I would like to say the clinic contributed to the successes of our alumni, these students were destined for success long before they started in the clinic. The SBC just put them on that path a little sooner." 🛠️

A Sample of the SBC's Success Stories

Al Otro Lado—nonprofit providing immigration and ancillary legal services to indigent migrants, refugees and deportees in Tijuana, Mexico

Hit City USA—record label and lifestyle brand

Mama Musubi, LLC—catering company specializing in gourmet rice balls, currently selling at Smorgasburg DTLA

Morning Glory Confections, Inc—bakery specializing in nut brittle

Pandav (now Embark)—mass transit mobile app, acquired by Apple in 2013

Success Tutoring—professional K-12 tutoring based in Burbank

Writers Room Productions—nonprofit providing creative writing workshops to kids

He Lets the Constit

Professor Michael H. Shapiro sees bioethics and constitutional law as “mutually

By Christina Schweighofer

In Michael H. Shapiro’s office, stacks, piles and heaps of paper cover almost every horizontal surface. “I’ve got stuff on the floor back there from the 1994 earthquake,” the professor says. To retrieve anything from underneath he’d have to dig deep, something he enjoys doing — though in a different context. He likes getting to the bottom of questions.

The Dorothy W. Nelson Professor of Law and a specialist in bioethics and in constitutional law, Shapiro

especially enjoys analyzing the issues that advances in the biomedical sciences generate. Take gestational surrogacy: If a woman gives birth to a child created in vitro from another woman’s egg, who is the mother?

Or consider a hypothetical scenario that Shapiro first laid out in a seminal 1974 article, “Who Merits Merit?”: If we had the biotechnological capability to significantly increase a person’s IQ, whom should we target? Would it be the smartest people who might



ution Be His Guide

y illuminating”

then achieve great things for the benefit of all? Or would it be those with the largest intellectual deficits?

Shapiro approaches such conundrums as a consummate, all-around scholar. Passionate about the sciences from early on, he originally studied physics, but went on to earn two philosophy degrees from UCLA and a JD from the University of Chicago Law School.

“If you really want to understand bioethics you have to look at Constitutional law, because the Constitution embeds our moral values.”

—Michael Shapiro, *Dorothy W. Nelson Professor of Law*

He worked as an attorney in private practice and with nonprofits, and taught at Yale University and at UCLA. Having first lectured at USC Gould in 1966, he joined the faculty again in 1970.

At the time, USC Gould, along with a few other institutions, was pioneering an interdisciplinary approach to the law. Vice Dean Alexander Capron says that Shapiro, “a creative, out-of-the-box thinker,” exemplified that approach: “He was dipping into the medical and cognitive sciences and genetics, and thinking about where the newly developed capabilities might take us.”

Shapiro has a reputation for speaking his mind. He’ll tell students that they are wrong about something or that a question “isn’t entirely sound as formulated.” But hidden underneath the gruffness is a softer side. For instance, the professor can be candid about his own foibles. And tangents he goes off on while discussing bioethical matters reveal broad interests: Black holes

and gravity pop up, as do the stock market, *Moby Dick* (“boring”) and the TV series *Gilmore Girls* (“very clever”).

He generously shares his time and expertise with others. One admirer, Richard Barton ’81, who practices health care law with Procopio in San Diego, speaks of Shapiro as “a kind and brilliant man.” He keeps an open-door policy for students, and he’ll patiently explain to a layperson how bioethics and constitutional law fit together or why bioethical questions vex us to begin with.

Shapiro’s theory in a nutshell is this: When we fragment and reassemble basic life processes such as reproduction, death and dying — when we revise nature — long-held norms no longer seem to apply. New categories like a three-parent child “make our minds explode.”

The Constitution leads us out of our discomfort, he says: “If you really want to understand bioethics you have to look at Constitutional law, because the Constitution embeds our moral values.” Bioethical questions, in turn, are “a superb tool” for testing the meaning and the application of Constitutional law. The two areas overlap. They are “mutually illuminating.”

Shapiro is currently working on a multi-volume book about bioethics and the Constitution. His co-author, Roy G. Spece Jr. ’72, a former student who teaches bioethics and law and Constitutional law at the University of Arizona, says that Shapiro inspires him to keep learning and “to be my absolute best.”

Phrased differently: Shapiro holds high expectations for his students.

“When they are done here,” he says, “they must be able to analyze a case and argue it to anyone — including another lawyer, the Supreme Court and the person on the street. This means that when we go over the law, we have to understand the whole process from top to bottom. You don’t really understand what an apple is until you eat it, pull it apart. We eat cases. Without destroying them. A neat trick only lawyers can do.” 🍏

Remaking our legal system for a better tomorrow

By Carren Jao

Intelligent robots, self-driving cars, drones. Every day, a Jetsons kind of future is a step closer to reality. But along with these innovations come thorny questions of how societies will be able to cope with them.



Gillian Hadfield, the Richard L. and Antoinette Schamoi Kirtland professor of Law and professor of Economics

“The future will need rules. How are we going to make them?”

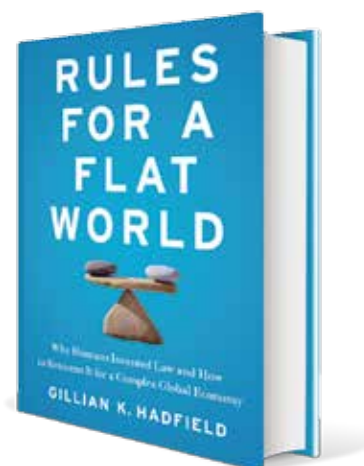
This question is what USC Gould Professor of Law and of Economics Gillian Hadfield addresses in her new book, “Rules for a Flat World: Why Humans Invented Law and How to Reinvent It for a Complex Global Economy.”

In her book, Hadfield walks readers through the genesis of lawmaking; how it evolved in scope and complexity over the centuries; its limitations in the face of globalization,

which Pulitzer Prize-winning author Thomas L. Friedman outlined in his tome, “The World Is Flat”; and finally, how societies can go about remaking their legal system with the future in mind.

Hadfield says the signs of the system’s stress are already evident, from the Brexit vote to the results of the last United States presidential election.

“These are large groups of people saying, ‘We don’t like the rules that are being used to decide how technology, trade and immigration will develop. We don’t feel like we’re a part of those rules being made,’” she says.



Two experiences gave Hadfield the idea for this book. First, as a young professor, Hadfield found herself tangled in a complicated and difficult custody litigation case. “It was a little bit like that doctor who gets sick and finds out [the medical] system doesn’t work so well,” she recalls.

Second, her work with the Southern California Innovation Project, funded by a \$675,000 grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, allowed her to interview the general counsel at companies like Google, Apple and Cisco that look deeply into globalization and technology. “I was constantly hearing how our legal systems aren’t doing what these companies need them to do because things have changed so much,” she says.

If we would like to secure our future prosperity, it’s time to do things differently, argues Hadfield. “We need some really different ways of building the rules we need for our economy and society. Our system worked well in the 20th century, but we need people to think more creatively. We need to be as innovative about our rules as we are about our technology.”

Watch a short video based on Prof. Hadfield’s “Rules for a Flat World” at gillianhadfield.com. Read about the Legal Design Lab Hadfield co-led this spring on p. 15.

Up for the Cultural Challenges

As a lecturer in law for the LLM program, Anitha Cadambi '11 shares her background and experience with her students

By Christina Schweighofer

Prof. Cadambi enjoys getting to know her students, who come from diverse backgrounds and professional experiences.

Anitha Cadambi tries to assume nothing. She doesn't expect her students to come in with a certain level of experience or knowledge; the group in her classroom is simply too diverse for such conjectures. What she knows about her students is that they share specific challenges relating to language and culture. For her, they make teaching even more enjoyable.

An adjunct professor for the LLM program at Gould, Cadambi instructs international students with law degrees from foreign universities — and she knows firsthand what it means to be an LLM student. Born into an Indian family, she spent her early years in Orange County, but attended high school and law school in India.

When she discovered that she'd been accepted into Gould's LLM program, she says she made the decision to attend in part because an uncle described USC as "the Harvard of the West." Cadambi graduated in 2011, but remained for six months as a research assistant for Prof. Edwin Smith, an experience that piqued her interest in teaching.

Her history as an LLM student has shaped the way Cadambi teaches her courses for the residential and the online program, which range from LLM Legal Profession to Introduction to U.S. Culture and Practice to Introduction to the U.S. Legal System. "My own experience had a tremendous influence," she says.

Now, in addition to teaching and working as a transactional attorney for the Los Angeles-based Singh Law Group, Cadambi has recently joined Gould's Graduate and International Programs office as associate director of Graduate Curriculum & Instruction.

First and foremost, Cadambi understands that LLM students often struggle with switching their thinking from

the civil to the common law system. "They are still learning how to think like a U.S. lawyer," she says. "I see them get stuck on a case, trying to process: why are we learning this, why am I reading this case, and why does a judge have so much authority or say on what the law is or how the law should be interpreted?"



Cadambi also understands why LLM students tend to be shy in class: They face language barriers, and they come from lecture- rather than discussion-based university cultures. "There, they might never say a word in class," she says. "And so I try to really motivate them to speak up."

When her students do participate, she is often surprised about where a discussion goes based on the group's prior lawyering experience and the diversity of backgrounds. She revels in this exposure to differing opinions.

"As a lawyer, you're so focused: I need this one answer to solve my client's issue," she says. "But as a professor you need to consider several views on the subject, and for me the whole process is very intellectually stimulating." 🍷

NO MORE WAITING UNTIL NEXT YEAR

Inside baseball with Chicago Cubs counsel Lydia Wahlke '05

By Anne Bergman

What is 146 years old, but feels like a start-up? The venerable Chicago Cubs, according to Lydia Wahlke '05, the team's vice president and general counsel.

When Wahlke joined the club, the Cubs had just entered a new era, having been sold by the Tribune Co. to the Ricketts family. "Once the family took control, the organization had to restart itself and recreate systems, from email to payroll," says Wahlke, who grew up in the Chicago suburbs. "It was a fascinating environment, as we were embarking on a new strategy aligned along a single plan."

her duties negotiating contracts, as well as managing litigation and overseeing the use of the Cubs brand.

"One thing that surprised me is that so much of what I do as in-house general counsel is not straight legal advice, but general guidance to getting something done for a colleague or for our fans," says Wahlke, who before joining the Cubs served as an associate at Chicago firm Kirkland & Ellis.

Before applying to USC Gould, Wahlke had earned a BA from USC's School of Cinematic Arts, where she focused on editing.

After a few years working at Miramax as an editor and field producer, she decided it was time for a change. She applied to Gould and says she immediately felt a "high level of support and collaboration" that lasted throughout her time there. "Honestly, that feeling of collegiality has informed my personal philosophy as an attorney," she says.

Wahlke fondly recalls Prof. Dan Klerman, who clerked for Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, encouraging his students to pursue clerkships. "I valued that advice, and I applied for a clerkship with U.S. District Judge Amy St. Eve that ultimately helped my career," she says.

In a full-circle moment, Wahlke had the opportunity to meet Justice Stevens, a lifelong Cubs fan, when he visited Wrigley for a game.

"I told him, 'I had one of your clerks as a professor!'" she recalls with a laugh.

Whether the fans are Supreme Court justices or not, Wahlke sees herself as their resource, especially when it comes to managing the Cubs brand.

"I talk to a few fans a week. One recently wanted to put a Cubs logo on their father's tombstone. We know that this is a generational sport, but it's still surprising to me how deep the love for their team goes with Cubs fans," she says. "Our general rule is that we want to help them celebrate the team."

And, as the 2017 baseball season begins, she hopes her team will find more to celebrate. 🍷



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICAGO CUBS (STEPHEN GREEN)

Anyone paying attention during the 2016 World Series knows that plan led the club from "Lovable Loser" status to jubilant champions. The team finally ended their 108-year drought (the longest in U.S. sports history) when they won the championship in November.

"For our fans, the victory was like an enormous weight came off their shoulders. It was indescribable," she says.

In addition to the team's rebuild, the Cubs also took on a \$750 million renovation project: modernizing the iconic Wrigley Field, which was built in 1914. Wahlke helps to manage the restoration, which also includes the surrounding neighborhood, while fulfilling

Legal Drama

Top 50 IP attorney
Peter Afrasiabi '97 publishes book on
incredible immigration case



By Julie Riggott

When Peter Afrasiabi '97 started work on his latest book three years ago, he could not have guessed how timely it would be when it was finally published April 2017. *Burning Bridges: America's 20-Year Crusade to Deport Labor Leader Harry Bridges* is the first full account of the true story of the longest deportation battle in U.S. history, a case that spanned four trials over 20 years and went to the Supreme Court twice.

In each case, beginning in 1939, the government tried to frame Australian-born longshoreman Harry Bridges as a Communist in order to have him deported — and permanently silence the powerful voice behind dock workers' rights and an 83-day West Coast strike that ended with the formation of a legitimate union.

"It's remarkably eerie to see what's going on now with a very heavy Executive hand on immigration out of fear of Islam or Muslims or terrorism," Afrasiabi says. "The new immigration orders bring up the same set of issues in the book, set when the Cold War had similar reprisals against alleged Communists and the courts were desperately needed to check the Executive. It's sort of history repeating itself."

Though Afrasiabi is a Top 50 (*Variety Magazine*) intellectual property and entertainment lawyer with One LLP, the book sprang from the pro bono immigration appeals he handles through the University of California, Irvine School of Law Appellate Litigation Clinic, where he is co-director.

One of the cases Afrasiabi regularly cites as precedent that immigrants are entitled to due process is *Bridges v. Wixon*, the first Bridges case that went to the Supreme Court. Usually,

immigration cases have foreign names, so Afrasiabi wondered: "What had Harry Bridges done to provoke the government's wrath and make it to the Supreme Court? I thought, there's got to be some amazing story behind it."

Afrasiabi became interested in immigration law when he was clerking on the Ninth Circuit for Judge Ferdinand F. Fernandez BS '58/ JD '62. "That's when I realized I could do pro bono litigation and really make a meaningful difference," he says. "It's an area of great need because there are so many asylum seekers that don't have counsel and there are so few immigration lawyers."

"Judge Fernandez had the most incredibly sharp intellect," Afrasiabi adds. "I learned how to pull back every layer of the onion until you find a more nuanced way to understand the law you're dealing with."

Afrasiabi says he was also fortunate to clerk for another federal judge with a Gould degree: Alicemarie H. Stotler '67. "Judge Stotler was the most hard-working person you can imagine; she was a public servant working seven days a week and earning a fraction of what partners at big law firms earn," he says. "As a first-year lawyer, it was incredible to see how she analyzed a case and brought objectivity to the decision. She avoided ever getting wrapped up in the heat of emotion."

A Southern California native, Afrasiabi says he was confident that in his decision to attend USC Gould. "The advice I got from many people was that going to USC was the best for one's career if you wanted to live in Southern California because it has such a powerful brand and alumni network community. That's turned out to be true." 🍷

A Popular Mentor Shares Life Lessons

Leading litigator Frank Gooch '76 finds time to give back to Gould

By Anne Bergman

It makes sense that USC Gould students seek professional guidance from seasoned litigator Frank Gooch BA '73/JD '76 who's consistently ranked at the top of his field. But what keeps them coming back is Gooch's perspective on life as a whole.

A perennial participant at Gould career events such as the annual mentor lunch and small/mid-size firm reception, Gooch, who is a partner at Gilchrist & Rutter where he chairs

and USC law school became my dream school. When I got in, my dad was so happy."

While in law school, the Hale Moot Court honors program was "the best thing I ever did," Gooch says. "That experience was so helpful to me becoming a litigator." He adds that Professors Michael Shapiro (see p. 18) and Scott Bice were both especially supportive of their students, despite the "Paper Chase" cutthroat environment at the time.

Upon graduating, Gooch landed with Flint & MacKay, a venerable law firm that represented publishing magnate William Randolph Hearst and after his death continued to represent his various holdings, which included the *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* and *Good Housekeeping*.

By 1983, Gooch had left the firm to help launch Gilchrist & Rutter in Santa Monica. Gooch recalls: "One of our first clients was a referral from then-Dean Bice. I was so grateful. And that's when the idea of the Trojan Family hit home. The only reason I am here today is because of that client."

Now the Trojan Family includes son Rick and nephew Josh Demple, who are currently both in their 2L years at Gould. When Gooch speaks of his family, he sounds like a man who's taken his own advice. "I am so grateful that I was able to see my kids grow up and be a part of their lives. I'd construct my workday so I wouldn't have to miss a ball game or anything else," he says.

On a day-to-day basis, Gooch takes pride in helping to "accomplish justice." His favorite moments come when he makes a strong connection with a client. As a career highlight, he cites the role he and the firm have played in revitalizing downtown Los Angeles, specifically the development of Bunker Hill.

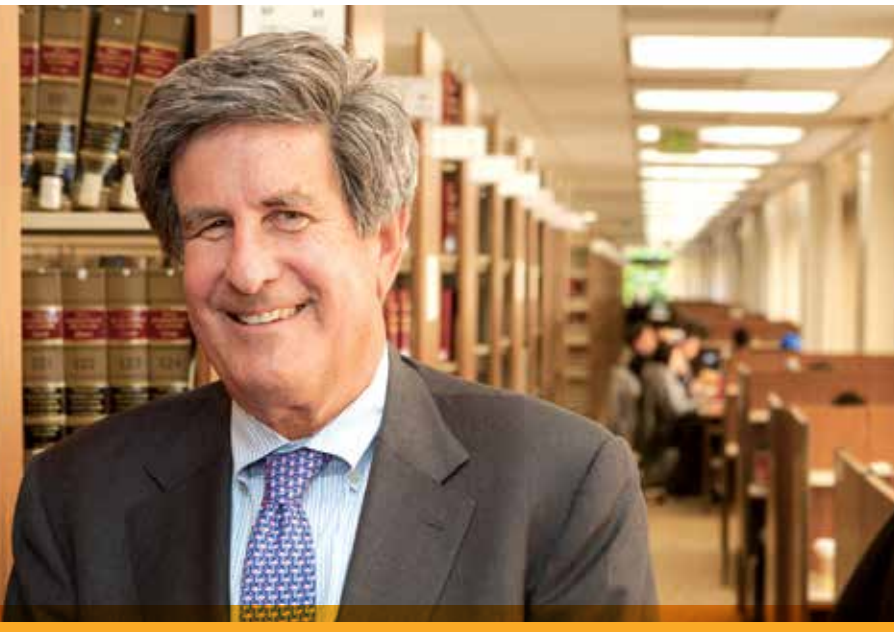
Both professionally and personally, Gooch holds himself to a high standard. "I tell my children that my favorite quote in life is from scholar William Lyon Phelps, who wrote, 'This is the final test of a gentleman: His respect for those who can be of no possible service to him.'"

"I think that is a way to live your life." 🍷

the Litigation Practice Group, can be spied by the end surrounded by a large circle of law students.

"I try to put myself in their shoes," he says. "I know law school can be daunting. And when they become lawyers, I remind them that you work hard as a lawyer, but you have to have a personal life and focus on your family, too."

The first in his family to attend college, Gooch grew up in Covina, east of Los Angeles. His father was a meat cutter with aspirations to become a lawyer. "I wanted to please him," Gooch recalls. "I was lucky enough to get into USC for undergrad, and I worked hard. I would study in the law library,



Game-Changing Gift to Expand Immigration Clinic

Longtime supporter Audrey Irmas establishes Gould's first named clinical professorship

By Gilien Silsby

USC Gould School of Law established its first named clinical law professorship with a generous \$1.5 million gift from longtime supporter Audrey M. Irmas, whose philanthropic commitment to women and children is well-known throughout California.

Professor Niels Frenzen, founding director of the USC Gould Immigration Clinic, will be installed as the first Sydney M. and Audrey M. Irmas Endowed Clinical Professor. The gift will expand the Immigration Clinic's work and student participation in advocacy and representation of immigration clients.

"Audrey Irmas has been a steadfast supporter of USC and the Gould School of Law for many decades," said Dean Andrew Guzman in a statement announcing the gift. "We are deeply grateful to have such a committed member of the Trojan Family supporting a critical need for our clinics at the law school."

Four generations of Irmas' family attended USC, including her husband, Sydney '55, and grandson Jared Irmas '13 who both graduated from the law school. Daughter Deborah Irmas graduated in '72 with a degree in fine arts and later taught art history.

"I am thrilled to support the work of USC Gould's Immigration Clinic," said Audrey Irmas. "The clinic has helped many women and children successfully gain freedom and asylum after enduring unimaginable harms, while training some of USC Gould's best and brightest future lawyers."

The Immigration Clinic's recent representation of two Tanzanian sisters, who were born with albinism and targeted for "magical" body parts in their small African village, grabbed the national spotlight recently. Under the direction of Frenzen, USC law students helped the teenagers win asylum. Today the girls are safe in Ojai, living with guardians and attending high school.

"This is one of hundreds of cases we are working on," Frenzen said. "It's cases like these that we are committed to."

Frenzen, who launched the Immigration Clinic in 2000, said he is honored to hold the inaugural Sydney M. and Audrey M. Irmas Endowed Clinical Professorship. "The Immigration Clinic is aligned with Audrey Irmas' mission of helping vulnerable populations. Her passion is truly inspirational," he said.



In the past 17 years, nearly 200 USC Gould students participated in the Immigration Clinic, representing more than 1,000 clients. The clinic boasts an impressive 95 percent success rate.

More than half of the clinic's clients are women and transgender women and a third are children, with the youngest being a 4-year-old boy from El Salvador.

The Irmases (pictured above) have been loyal supporters of USC and Gould. In 1997, the Audrey and Sydney Irmas Charitable Foundation endowed the Sydney M. Irmas Chair in Public Interest Law and Legal Ethics and funded the Irmas Fellowship in Public Interest Law and Legal Ethics. In 2012, Irmas funded the Audrey Irmas Clinical Teaching Fellowship. The Irmases have also supported the Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and Keck School of Medicine. 🍷

Seeking a Network, Finding a Family

Two Trojan lawyers who met at Gould share how they connected



By Anne Bergman

Native Angeleno Dominic Nunneri '14 knew he wanted to stay in Los Angeles after graduating from law school. USC Gould was his top choice.

"Conventional wisdom says that networking matters the most in graduate school, especially law school," Nunneri says. "That's why I wanted to go to USC. I wanted the benefit of the Trojan Network."

And even before classes began, Nunneri made an important connection: He met his future wife, Tatiana Semerjian Nunneri '14.

"We met during the application process," Nunneri says. "We both ended up at USC, had all the same classes together and lived at Terrace [law student housing]. As we became acquainted, we realized that our whole lives we had lived around the corner from

each other in the San Fernando Valley. And we both attended UCLA at the same time. Yet we'd never met."

When they finally did meet, they wasted little time, according to Semerjian Nunneri. "We were really good friends the first semester, dating the second semester and engaged after the first year," she says. "We got married three weeks after we took the bar exam!"

Nunneri credits Professor Ron Garet for playing an instrumental role in their courtship. "We were both in

his Law, Language and Values class. He hosted a lunch at his house, and we ended up sitting together at what unintentionally ended up as the singles table. He told our table that law school is the perfect time to meet your spouse. He was speaking from experience because he had met his wife while in grad school. This is an example of why the Trojan Network exists. While at USC law school, not only do you get to study under top-notch professors, but you also get to know them and your classmates on a personal level."

After Nunneri's first year, he met alumnus William Kruse JD/MBA '79, managing partner at Lagerlof, Senecal, Gosney & Kruse LLP, during on-campus interviews. "It's not very often that you see the named managing partner conducting first-round interviews on a law school campus," he says. "This is another example of the personal touch of the Trojan Network."

Nunneri joined the firm as a summer clerk and is now an associate attorney there. "I work with three Gould alumni [William Kruse '79, Andrew Turner '85 and Thomas Bunn III '79, who is a third-generation Gould alumnus]. And our newest hire is also from Gould, Collin Spillman '17."

The Gould network worked for Semerjian Nunneri, too, as she was hired by Gould graduate Linda Lawson '77, managing partner at Meserve, Mumper & Hughes LLP. Currently an associate at that firm, Semerjian Nunneri finds time to give back, as does her husband. Both return to campus for events such as the Bar Association Fair.

"I remember that anytime I reached out to alumni, they were ready and willing to help out," says Semerjian Nunneri. "Now that I'm receiving emails from 2Ls and 3Ls, I try to carry it on. I know how much I appreciated practical advice over lunch or coffee when I was in law school." 🍷

Where Romance Blooms

Gould grads and their love stories

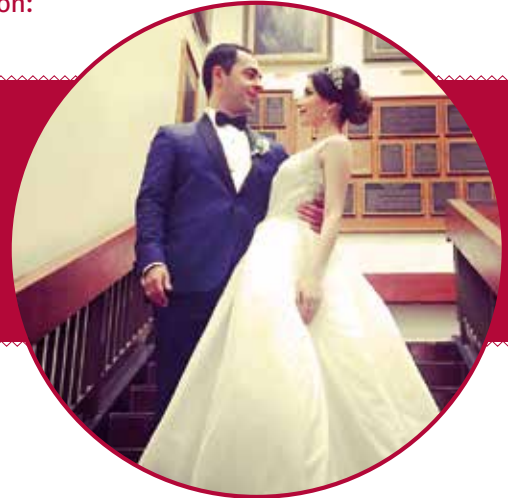
Like many law school students, Steve Mindel '85, managing partner of family law firm FMBK LLP, came to law school intending to find a career. Instead, he found a career and a family the day he met his future

wife, Nancy (class of '86). They've now been married for 30 years. We often hear stories like this from our alumni, so we asked some of them to share them with us. Here is a selection:

HOVANES MARGARIAN (BS '02/JD '06) + SHUSHANIK MARGARIAN (LLM '17)

The Gould Moment: A Double Trojan, Hovanes encouraged Shushanik to attend Gould to earn a Master's Degree in Law.

What Happened Next: The Trojan Marching Band played at their wedding. Hovanes is founder and lead counsel of the Margarian Law firm.



STEVE MINDEL (JD '85) + NANCY MINDEL (JD '86)

The Gould Moment: During Nancy's first year of law school and Steve's second year, Steve noticed Nancy as she emerged from class. He escorted Nancy to her car and gave her his Creative Ideas business card and told her if she ever needed help with any of her classes to give him a call. The next day, Steve was in the library studying and Nancy came to talk to him.

What Happened Next: Steve and Nancy now have two sons. Nancy's sister Betsy also joined the Gould family when she married Steve's classmate and FMBK partner, Jerry Kline '86.

MURIEL AUBRY-THOMPSON (BA '06/JD '09) + MICHAEL THOMPSON (BA '05/JD '09)

The Gould Moment: "Michael and I first met 2L year when we were members of the Black Law Students Association together," says Muriel. "I was on the Executive Board and he never showed up for meetings so I gave him a hard time as much as possible. As we got to know each other better we discovered that we had a lot in common, including that we both went to USC for undergrad and are crazy USC football fans."

What Happened Next: "We are approaching our fifth wedding anniversary this year," says Muriel, who is human resources manager and compliance officer at Tessie Cleveland Community Services Corporation. Michael is an attorney with Cohen & Lord, P.C.



STELLAR SCHOLARS

Prestigious scholarship program approaches 15 years, honors legacy of Frank Rothman '51



By Julie Riggott

Imagine a full-ride scholarship at the USC Gould School of Law and a guaranteed summer fellowship with one of the largest and highest-grossing international law firms in the world. The opportunity sounds quixotic, but it's exactly what the Rothman Scholars Program provides one promising law scholar *every year*.

Over the past 14 years, each of the Rothman Scholars has been as stellar a student as its namesake the late Frank Rothman '51 was a respected lawyer. Called a "legendary litigator" by the *National Law Journal*, Frank Rothman served an impressive roster of clients in sports and entertainment, including the NFL, the PGA, Warner Bros., Walt Disney, Paramount Pictures and 20th

things that my dad enjoyed the most about the practice of law was mentoring young, smart, up-and-coming lawyers," says Steve Rothman. "It was a source of joy and inspiration to him. I could tell because it was the first thing he would talk about with me when he came home from work.

"So when the opportunity arose to create something that would honor that interest and love that my dad had," he adds, "the scholarship program was a no-brainer."

The Scholars: Now, Then & In Perpetuity

Rothman Scholar Allison Bader, currently a 2L at Gould, credits the scholarship with "opening countless doors. As a Skadden summer associate, I was able to explore a wide variety of practice areas and specialties, which has influenced every-

"One of the things that my dad enjoyed the most about the practice of law was mentoring young, smart, up-and-coming lawyers."

—Steve Rothman, son of Frank Rothman '51

Century Fox. In later years, he worked as an antitrust specialist and partner in the Los Angeles office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom — the firm that *Forbes* called "Wall Street's most powerful law firm" and that guarantees the 1L summer fellowship.

Equally important, Frank Rothman pursued professional success while earning respect and admiration from colleagues, judges and courtroom opponents. He was especially beloved at Gould, where he maintained close friendships and advised the administration as a member and chairman of the board of councilors.

"This program has created a legacy of students who strive to live up to the ideals and success of Mr. Rothman," says David Kirschner, associate dean and dean of admissions. "Students know that the Rothman Scholarship carries with it the promise of so many doors opening very early on in their legal careers.

Kirschner says the merit-based scholarship helps attract some of the very best and brightest applicants. Of the approximately 200 applicants for fall 2016, only one was selected from a phenomenal pool of talented students. "One of the

thing from the classes I'm taking to my future career plans," she says.

Douglas Strasnick '05 knows well the responsibility of being a Rothman Scholar. He was the inaugural recipient in 2002. "I wanted to set the tone for the program and truly understand the value and opportunity I was so grateful to receive," Strasnick says.

Having worked with some of the nation's top media and entertainment firms and companies such as Ovation TV, Lifetime TV, United Talent Agency and Crowdfunder, Strasnick in a sense followed in Rothman's footsteps. "I'm currently working with Moogfest, a technology, music and art festival that aims to grow to the next level as a media property," he says.

Heading into his 15th year reading Rothman Scholar applications, Steve Rothman says that the program remains an important way to honor his father's legacy.

His son, 26, and daughter, 17, are reaching a point where they can become active participants. "I'm not going to be here forever, but hopefully the Rothman Scholars Program will be." 📌

Joseph Wapner BA '41/JD '48: Feb. 26, 2017. A Double Trojan, Judge Wapner became well-known to TV audiences for his 12-year tenure on the courtroom reality show, "The People's Court."

Wapner worked in private practice as a lawyer for nearly a decade before Gov. Edmund Brown appointed him to the California Municipal Court. Two years later, Judge Wapner was elected presiding judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court system.

Between earning his undergraduate degree in philosophy and his JD at USC, Wapner served in the U.S. Army as a lieutenant during World War II. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his service.

"The People's Court" debuted in 1981, and Wapner presided over 2,000 episodes.

Upon the news of Wapner's death, Dean Andrew Guzman told CNN: "The People's Court' brought our system of justice into American homes and was truly revolutionary."

Wapner is survived by his wife, Mickey, and sons, David Miron-Wapner and Hon. Fred Wapner.

Bernard A. Leckie BS '57/JD '59: Dec. 16, 2016. Of counsel to Meserve, Mumper & Hughes LLP, Leckie co-founded the USC Legion Lex William P. Gray Inn of Court in 1989. His law practice focused on general civil litigation, trial practice, family law, personal injury, corporate, real estate, probate and insurance matters. Leckie handled many high profile cases, which included representing O.J. Simpson in a child custody case

At his passing, he was a member of the USC Legion Lex (Orange County) Board of Directors and served on the Board of the William P. Gray Inn of Court. An arbitrator

for the American Arbitration Association and the Orange County Superior Court, Leckie served as a judge pro tem for the Orange County Superior Court, a member of the State Bar Disciplinary Committee and chairman of the State Bar Preliminary Investigation Panel.

As a USC law student, Leckie received the Law Week Award for highest scholastic progress in 1959. Leckie was an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Army.

He is survived by his wife, Maryanne (Hammatt), son, Scott, and daughter, Karin.

Steven J. Saito JD '84: Jan. 5, 2017. Saito worked at Stanley Mosk Courthouse for 26 years as an in-house probate attorney. He is survived by his wife, Deborah.

William Genego, who was instrumental in the success of Gould's pioneering Post Conviction Justice Project, passed away in March 2017. A member of the Gould faculty 1981-1989, Genego rose to the rank of clinical professor of law, before he went into private practice, focusing on criminal defense and appellate litigation.

Professor Scott Bice, who was dean during Genego's time on the faculty, recalled Genego and his work with the PCJP with fondness and admiration. "Willie and his students provided critical legal assistance to an important population who had no access to legal services. He was a valued colleague and a popular teacher who inspired his students to pursue public interest careers."

In addition to leading the PCJP, Professor Genego taught courses in criminal procedure, evidence, trial advocacy and appellate litigation.



Michael E. Levine, who taught at USC Gould School of Law in the 1970s and 1980s, passed away Feb. 3, 2017.

A renowned aviation industry expert and deregulator, he is remembered as a lively and demanding colleague, teacher and mentor.

Levine was a USC Gould faculty member almost continuously from 1968 to 1987. Professor Michael H. Shapiro, who joined the law school at around the same time as Levine, said: "Mike Levine was exceptional in practically every way.

He was exceptionally intelligent, educated, loud, intermittently large, argumentative, both judgmental and skeptical, and accomplished in very different endeavors."

A graduate of Reed College and Yale Law School, Levine had a varied career as an academic, airline executive and government official. He served on the Civil Aeronautics Board, held senior executive positions at three different airlines and taught at Caltech, Harvard and Yale, where he was the Dean of the School of Management. In 2005, he joined the NYU Law School as a distinguished scholar and lecturer.

Past students remember Levine as a demanding instructor. Former USC Gould Dean Matthew Spitzer '77, a law professor at Northwestern, said: "It was very challenging to have him as a torts professor, a thesis advisor, a colleague and a mentor, and it was wonderful to have him as a friend for the last 40 years."

USC Gould Associate Professor Alex Lee, who was his student at Yale, called Levine "a true teacher" who took pride in being able to boil down difficult concepts into simple, intuitive terms. 📖

Honor Roll



Nanette Barragan JD '05 was elected to the U.S. Congress, representing California's 44th District. She was sworn into office on Jan. 3, 2017.



BTI Consulting Group named **Steve Baumann '11** a "Client Service All-Star." Baumann is an associate attorney at Littler, where his practice is focused on complex commercial and employment litigation.

Matthew Belloni JD '02 was recently named as editorial director at *The Hollywood Reporter*.

On Nov. 8, Palo Alto City Councilor **Marc Berman JD '08** was elected to the State Assembly representing the 24th District.

In September, **Eric Cheng JD '10** was named Partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, where he specializes in areas including intellectual property litigation, patent infringement litigation and patent-related ITC proceedings.

Brian Duff JD '05, a member of the Corporate Department at Latham and Watkins LLP has recently been promoted to counsel. His practice primarily focuses on M&A, representing strategic and private equity buyers and sellers in public and private transactions.



The *Daily Journal* named **Robert Dugdale JD '93**, **Jackie Lacey JD '82** and **David Willingham JD '98** to the "Top 100 Lawyers in California 2016." Lacey also received the Jack Webb Award from the Los Angeles Police Museum.

Hillel Elkins JD '05 made Partner at Sklar Kirsh LLP's Entertainment & Media Group in Los Angeles. Previously, he was executive vice president for business and legal affairs at Relativity Media.

Haight Brown & Bonesteel LLP recently hired **Casey Flaherty JD '06** and **Darth Vaughn JD '05** to the firm's Orange County office. Flaherty, who now serves as of counsel and director of client value focusing on legal delivery systems, recently authored *Unless You Ask: A Guide for Law Departments to Get More from External Relationships*. Vaughn joined Haight as partner in the Product Liability, Business Solutions, Employment and Labor, Real Estate, and Transportation law practice groups, and director of legal process services. Vaughn and Flaherty are both principals in Procertas, provider of the Legal Tech Assessment (LTA), a metrics and benchmarking tool.



Laura Fry JD '72 recently returned to USC Gould to accept a position as the new director of externship programs. She will also serve as an adjunct assistant professor. Previously, Fry was the director of externships at UC Irvine School of Law.

In September, real estate transactional attorney **Owen P. Gross JD '94** was hired as a Partner at Sklar Kirsh.

Urban Land magazine named **Javier Gutierrez JD '07** to its 40 Under 40 list, which recognizes "the world's best and brightest real estate professionals." Gutierrez is a partner at Stuart Kane LLP.

In December, Sheppard Mullin named **Whitney Hodges JD '07** the 2016 Bob Gerber Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, the firm's highest pro bono honor. She is a member of Sheppard Mullin's Real Estate, Land Use and Natural Resources practice group in San Diego.

In June 2016, **Nina Huerta JD '03** made managing partner at Locke Lord LLP. She was recently elected President of the Mexican American Bar Foundation Board, where she will serve with fellow alumna **Maria E. Hall JD '03**, attorney development director at the Los Angeles Incubator Consortium, who was elected the Board's Vice President. In addition, the USC Latino Law Association honored Hall with the Inspirational Alumnus award.

USC's Asian Pacific Alumni Association (APAA) presented **John Iino JD '87** with the 2017 Leadership Award for his outstanding leadership in the legal profession. Iino was also recently named Reed Smith's global chair of diversity and inclusion.



Avi Klein '04 is now managing investigator at the Mintz Group, an international private investigations and due diligence company.

The *Southern California Super Lawyers* named **Steve Mindel JD '85**, managing partner at FMBK, to its *Top 100* list.

Employment litigator **Elizabeth "Liz" Murphy JD '94** has joined Jackson Lewis' Los Angeles office as a Principal, focused on home healthcare and employment law.

Tezira Nabongo JD/MA '97 was promoted to senior vice president of talent management at the private equity firm Silver Lake Partners.

Judge **Ronald S. Prager JD '69** recently joined Judicate West's roster of neutrals in its San Diego office.

Todd B. Scherwin JD '05, managing partner at Fisher Phillips' Los Angeles office, was named to the *Southern California Super Lawyers 2017 Edition*.



This summer, **Dr. Riaz Tejani JD '09**, assistant professor and acting chair in the Department of Legal Studies at the University of Illinois-Springfield, will publish *Law Mart: Justice, Access and For-Profit Law Schools* with Stanford University Press.



Shaun J. Voigt JD '09 (pictured) and **Raul E. Zermeno JD '08** made partner at Fisher Phillips' Los Angeles office, which recently hired Associates **Ashley Attia JD '16** and **Ryan Naouchi JD '16**.



In November 2016, **Ryan Wolfe JD '12** received the Misdemeanor Attorney of the Year for the L.A. County Public Defender's Office. Wolfe is the deputy public defender in the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office Compton Courthouse-Juvenile Division.



ARTISTIC PURSUITS

The practice of law can sometimes lead to unusual places. In the case of Eric Wang '00, it led him to the doors of Poketo, a Los Angeles lifestyle brand that espouses creativity in everyday life.

Since 2007, Wang had been doing Poketo's legal work while juggling his commercial law practice, but after a decade in law, he transitioned to a full-time role overseeing the L.A. brand's operations. His duties include making sure each Poketo brick-and-mortar store is fully functioning and staffed with trained employees, online orders are filled, and supplies are constantly coming in from vendors and manufacturers.

The demands are a far cry from his previous legal career, but Wang says he doesn't regret the change. "When the economy tanked in 2008, it was game changing. Real estate values plummeted, and the work to be done was about salvaging assets and properties. It wasn't in growth mode. The nature of clients' work changed significantly. Around 2013, I realized that I did not connect with it as well as I used to."

Wang, however, still puts his Gould education to use, especially when contracts need to be looked over and signed. "I also use a lot of my skills in organization, public speaking and being a leader among our staff. A lot of this comes from the confidence I built during law school," says Wang.

A lifelong musician, Wang plans to keep growing the Poketo brand while embodying the company's emphasis on artistic pursuits. He plans to write and perform more music with his band, Zero/One. The pop house band's eponymous debut album is free for download at its website (<http://www.zeroslashonemusic.com/>) and is also available on Spotify. 🎸

A WARM WELCOME



USC Gould's annual Mentor Lunch can be a pivotal experience for first-year students who are just beginning to explore the legal profession, offering an opportunity to learn from alumni who can offer a helpful perspective from someone who has "been there."

In March, Town and Gown was filled to capacity when nearly 400 alumni and students arrived for this year's lunchtime event, a beloved annual law school tradition that pairs 1Ls and 2L transfer students with alumni attorneys working in the areas where the students have a professional interest.

"We have lawyers here today representing Big Law, entertainment companies, the district attorney's office, public interest advocacy groups, among others," said Dean Andrew Guzman. "Essentially, whatever you want to do with your degree, we've got you covered."

Guzman noted that the event consistently draws alumni, who are busy with their careers, back to campus year after year. "Every one of the nearly 200 alumni who are here today had something else to do, or some other obligations. Yet they prioritized being here, which provides us with an incredible asset," said Guzman. 🍷

Don't miss next year's Mentor Lunch, scheduled for Feb. 28, 2018.



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calendar

COMMENCEMENT 2017

May 12
Featured speaker: Calif. Attorney
General Xavier Becerra
Founders Park

STATE BAR CONFERENCE

June 2
Featured speaker: Erwin Chemerinsky, dean,
University of California, Irvine School of Law
USC Gould School of Law

ARBITRATION AS A RISK MANAGEMENT TOOL

June 2-3
A two-day, intensive, interactive program for
corporate counsel
USC Gould School of Law

POLITICAL ECONOMY AND PUBLIC LAW CONFERENCE (PEPL)

June 15-16
Political Economy and
Public Law Conference (PEPL)
USC Gould School of Law

CSO: MEET THE FIRM RECEPTION

June 22
Town and Gown Ballroom

USC-JAMS ARBITRATION INSTITUTE

July 26-29
Seminars and workshops for ADR practitioners
USC Gould School of Law

ORIENTATION 2017

August 16-18
USC Gould School of Law

USC GOULD ALUMNI REUNION

September 15-16
Complete program details to be announced.

TROJAN FAMILY WEEKEND 2017

October 12-15
Trojan Family Weekend 2017
USC Gould School of Law

***For details about these events and others,
please visit: gould.usc.edu/events***

COVER PHOTO BY MIKEL HEALEY