

# USC MAGAZINE Law

FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW ISSUE 05 | SPRING/SUMMER 2014



## WHERE THE HEART IS

*At home with den parents  
Prof. Ron & Susan Garett*



**As cheers for the Class of 2014 give way to the preparations for the coming academic year, there is much for our community to celebrate and much for us to accomplish together.** Our school over the decades has thrived on change. We always look for new and innovative ways to train the legal professionals who are essential to our society.

This past spring, USC Gould launched our \$150 million capital campaign. At this time of unprecedented change in the legal profession, we must reinvest in our core strengths: a talented student body passionately committed to learning and inclusion; a faculty that provides a rigorous education and produces scholarship that helps us better understand our legal system; and an environment that fosters collegiality and respect. At the same time, we need to continue with initiatives that build ties across USC, Los Angeles and indeed the world.

This fall we will launch our online LL.M. program for international lawyers. Law has become a global practice, and as the growth of our residential LL.M. program illustrates, there is a world-wide demand for a USC Gould legal education. Our first foray into online education is designed to deliver the same high-quality instruction to those who cannot restructure their professional and personal

**“At this time of unprecedented change in the legal profession, we must ... continue with initiatives that build ties across USC, Los Angeles, and indeed the world.”**

lives to come to campus for a full year. Those of you who have not had the opportunity to visit USC Gould recently would be amazed at the international reach of our school.

We see great demand for our J.D. program as well, with applications increasing by five percent during an admissions cycle that saw applicants nationwide decline by roughly 10 percent. While we are still putting the finishing touches on the Class of 2017, I am confident that those who join us this fall will be well equipped to carry on the legacy established by their predecessors. Indeed, it is during times of change that the education that we provide at USC Gould is valued the most.

As many of you have heard, the coming year will culminate my tenure as dean of our great school. There will be time to recount all that we have accomplished over these past seven years, but now is the time to keep moving forward. Our school has changed the lives of many over the decades. Generations of students have learned to “think like a lawyer” in our classrooms. As alumni, you translate this education into making our society a more just society. With this legacy in mind, I am confident that I can count on each of you to continue to work together towards ensuring that the best days for our school lie ahead.

Best,

Robert K. Rasmussen

*Dean and Carl Mason Franklin Chair in Law, and Professor of Law and Political Science*

**USC Gould**  
School of Law





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The law school's \$150 million goal is part of the most ambitious fundraising effort in USC's history, which will touch and transform every part of the university.



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# USC MAGAZINE Law

**SPRING | SUMMER 2014**

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 Gould School of Law



In this issue you will see this new icon at the end of many of our stories. This denotes a story that has more content on our online magazine, which can be found at <http://lawmag.usc.edu/>

## STUDYING INCOME INEQUALITY

United States Senator Ron Wyden, D-Ore., chair of the Senate Finance Committee, headlined a daylong conference at USC

at the conference included Measuring Inequality, How the Tax System Creates Inequality, Tax Policy or Fiscal Policy, and

the most powerful chairs in Congress. He was joined by leading experts to assess issues in measuring income inequality and analyze how tax policy both fosters and mitigates inequality.

Other conference speakers included Emmanuel Saez, University of California, Berkeley, economics professor and director of the Center for Equitable Growth; Scott Winship, a fellow at the Manhattan Institute; Miles Corak, University of Ottawa economics professor; and Leonard Burman, director of the Urban Brookings Tax Policy Center.

“We were honored to bring together such an extraordinary group of thinkers,” says USC Gould Prof. Edward Kleinbard, the former chief of staff of the U.S. Congress’s Joint Committee on Taxation and conference organizer. “We tackled some of the key issues in tax policy that will be extremely important in the next year.”



Gould, “Income Inequality: Is Tax Policy the Cause, the Cure or Irrelevant?”

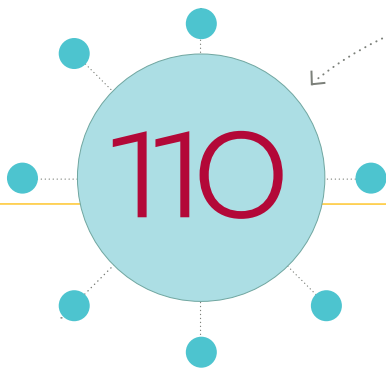
Co-sponsored by the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center and USC Gould, panels

The Income Tax as an Anti-Poverty Tool.

Wyden, a leading voice on tax, health care, international trade and electronic privacy, holds what is considered one of

“It is a fact that is well-known: You can never have enough lawyers.”

—Gen. David Petraeus, Judge Widney Professor at USC, during his “Conversation with the Dean”



*number of  
2013 graduates  
who were sworn  
in at the Bar  
Admission  
Ceremony*

## NEW BOARD OF COUNCILORS MEMBERS



USC Gould has added two new alumni members to its Board of Councilors.

Richard Chernick '70 (left) and John Iino '87 (right) recently joined the board, which provides advice and guidance to the law school leadership.

Chernick is the vice president and managing director of JAMS's Arbitration Practice. He has frequently been recognized as a top alternative dispute practitioner: He

has been named a Southern California Super Lawyer in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution for the past five years and was named Los Angeles Mediation Lawyer of the Year for 2013 by *Best Lawyers*.

"I have always been grateful to USC, and particularly to Dean Dorothy Nelson '56, for affording me the opportunity

to get a first-rate legal education. I owe much in my career to that education and to the contacts I made in school and later among the USC alumni community," Chernick says. "It was easy for me to say 'yes' when Board of Councilors Chair Ken Doran '81 and Rob Skinner '90 asked me to join. It gives me an opportunity to give back to USC and the law school community."

Iino is the managing partner of Reed Smith's Los Angeles office and global co-chair of the firm's Japan Business Team. He recently was named one of the Nation's Most Influential Minority Attorneys for 2014 by *Lawyers of Color*.

"We are witnessing dramatic change in legal industry, as the traditional law firm business model is experiencing significant challenges," Iino says. "I look forward to working with the board to help develop strategies to meet these challenges and to help USC be an innovator among law schools and the industry." 🚀



## 2014 MOOT COURT FINAL ROUND

Back row:

*Finalist Harper Gernet-Girard '15, Runner-up Ashton Massey '15, Champion Jenille Chambers-Corbett '15, and Finalist Andy Tran '15*

Front row:

*Washington Supreme Court Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud '84, Ninth Circuit Court Judge Stephen R. Reinhardt, and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Paul J. Watford*



**“The criminal justice system is nothing like you see on TV — it has become a system of plea bargaining. Plea bargains have led many innocent people to take a deal. People accused of crimes are often offered five years by prosecutors or face 20 to 30 years if they go to trial.”**

—U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff, in his USC Gould Neiman Sieroty Lecture

## SUPREME COURT BRIEFS FILED TO PROTECT INNOVATORS



Students in the Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic filed two briefs with the United States Supreme Court this year in a push to protect small innovators from patent trolls.

Working on behalf of the Application Developers Alliance, Mikhail Brandon '14 and Michelle Lee '15 drafted

an amicus brief in the case

of *Alice Corporation v. CLS Bank*, asking the court to take a strong stance on overly abstract patents.

The brief was co-authored with Public Knowledge, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that advocates for digital rights. It focused on software patents that include complex-sounding language, but in fact are covering basic ideas.

“For many of these patents, the applicant will take an abstract idea, a concept that is not patentable, and bury it deep within technical jargon in their patent application. Many end up being granted,” Lee said. “What happens next is that, rather than cover a straightforward invention, the patents can be used to go after any company whose business touches on a broad concept covered in the patent.”

“Many of these overly abstract patents that sneak through the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office are gobbled up by patent ‘trolls,’” Brandon said, “non-practicing entities who use them to write threatening letters or bring lawsuits — many of them frivolous. That’s their entire business model, and they often go after software companies and app developers — especially small ones that can’t defend themselves.”

This was the second Supreme Court brief on this issue that Brandon and Lee helped draft. During the fall semester, they filed a brief asking the court to hear the case of *WildTangent v. Ultramercial*, which involved a patent covering online video ads. In that case, the federal circuit twice upheld a patent that dealt with what the students say is another abstract idea, improperly held to be patentable because of complex-sounding implementation language. 🚩

California State  
Bar members  
who are USC  
Gould alumni

8,000

## SAKS INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHTS MENTAL HEALTH ON CAMPUS

The nation's top mental health experts joined university officials and students from 50 campuses at a conference sponsored by the USC Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy, and Ethics.

More than 200 people attended the forum "Many Voices, One Vision: Assisting College and University Students with Mental Illness to Make the Most of Their Academic Experience."

Among the many speakers were Nadine Kaslow, president of the American Psychological Association; Jeffrey Liberman, president of the American Psychiatric Association; James Preis, USC Gould lecturer and executive director of Mental Health Advocacy Services; a number of USC administrators; and college and university students from around the country. 📌

### THE CONVERSATION CONTINUED ONLINE

**Chantel Garrett @Chantel**

Take away from #SaksInstitute: Compassion alone is not the cure 4 #mentalillness, but it is the gateway. @USCGouldLaw #IWillListen

**Jeffrey A. Lieberman @DrJLieberman**

Important discussion of youth #mentalhealth at #Elynsaks institute @USCGouldLaw

**Flawless Foundation @flawlessgrats**

"To care is to cure" Farha Abbasi MD On cultural competence panel @USCGouldLaw #saksinstitute #loveheals #mentalhealth

Connect with the law school @USCGouldLaw

Watch videos from Saks Institute forum sessions at [youtube.com/USCGould](http://youtube.com/USCGould)

## STUDENTS PUSH FOR HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION

Students with USC Gould's International Human Rights Clinic met with lawmakers in Washington, D.C., to advocate for legislation and executive action to address the widespread sexual violence and mass atrocities in Sudan and the Congo.

Amani Floyd '14 and John Korevec '15 (both at right), and Kelsey Perry '15 presented position papers at a three-day conference, organized by Jewish World Watch and the Enough Project's "Hear Her Voice" campaign, that urged support for peace and justice in Sudan and the Congo. They also met with several survivors of genocide in the region.

"We participated in several small meetings on Capitol Hill with Congress

members or their staff," Perry said. "They expressed a genuine interest in the Congressional bills we highlighted for them. We spent most of our time emphasizing specific, measurable steps that they could take to make a real impact. We had a very positive experience in our meetings and are optimistic that the information we shared will be considered and valued."

The students also sat on an expert panel moderated by USC Gould Prof. Hannah Garry, director of the International Human Rights Clinic, which addressed more than 100 delegates on transitional justice mechanisms. They were the only law students to join the



panels, which included Obama administration officials, United Nations representatives, former ambassadors, senior human rights advocates, legislators and survivors from Sudan and the Congo. 📌

“The first time I put the robe on I felt the responsibility, and I felt the opportunity in it.”

—L.A. Superior Court Judge Karen Gauff, during a “Women on the Bench” talk

## STUDENTS LAUNCH USC BUSINESS LAW ADVISOR



Students this spring published the third volume of the student-run and student-written *USC Business Law Advisor*. The *Advisor* features a collection of notes on current topics in business law, with the current issue covering subjects including shareholder rights plans, San Francisco’s land-use laws, and Bitcoin’s growing pains.

Students with the Business Law Society launched the publication last year, with Melissa Boey ’13, Mikhail Brandon ’14 and Justin Goldberg ’13 at the helm. The latest issue was produced by a staff of 10 students who handled

everything from planning to printing.


The notes follow the template of the client advisory memo, giving students the experience of not only writing, but familiarizing

themselves with a current legal development, analyzing it, and producing recommendations that are easily digestible to clients.

“Partners and associates at law firms write these sorts of advisories, memos that get sent out to clients and attorneys in the relevant practice areas,” says Rick Bohm ’14, editor-in-chief. “Most big law firms are doing either business litigation or big transactions, both of which hinge on recent developments in the law. That’s what we’re targeting.”

The *Advisor* is available online at [USCBusinessLawAdvisor.org](http://USCBusinessLawAdvisor.org). Thanks to some venture capital from USC Gould Dean Robert K. Rasmussen last semester, the students printed a couple hundred issues to distribute to alumni, practitioners, and past speakers hosted by the BLS.

Next year’s Editor-in-Chief Barzin Pakandam ’15 hopes to build off the *Advisor*’s success and build an enticement to future prospective students.

“It’s exciting to be a part of this groundswell of student authors, student editors who are becoming more professional,” he says. “They’re establishing that expertise in something they can be employed in and it’s very useful.” 



## USC PROGRAM ON RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION LAUNCHED

When Arizona recently considered a measure that would allow merchants to refuse service to gay and lesbian customers by citing religious beliefs, a national debate sparked over the proposed law.

Was the bill simply protecting civil rights of business owners with deeply held religious views, or was it fueling blatant discrimination?

Although the bill was vetoed, the ever-expanding issue of religious accommodation is changing how civil rights law is viewed and interpreted across the country. With that in mind, the USC Program on Religious Accommodation recently launched to bring together an interdisciplinary mix of scholars to examine the emerging question of accommodation.

“Advocates for civil rights now recognize that religious exemption claims represent the new frontier in the war on anti-discrimination law,” says Nomi Stolzenberg, director of the Program on Religious Accommodation and a USC Gould professor. “At the same time, advocates for religious rights see the fight for religious accommodation as their civil rights movement. Our goal is to overcome the fractured, polarized discourse that too often prevails in discussions of religious accommodation.”

USC’s Program on Religious Accommodation is supported by schools and research centers across campus, including USC Gould, the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, the Center for Law, History and Culture, the Center for Religion and Civic Culture, the CRCC Interdisciplinary Research Group, the USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute, the Pacific Center for Health Policy and Ethics and the Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics.

“The goal of the program is to deepen understanding of all parties,” Stolzenberg said. “This issue is not going away — in fact it is exploding. We want to be on the forefront of the discussion.”



“THE CLASSROOM CAN TEACH YOU THE SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF THE LAW, BUT IT CAN’T TEACH YOU HOW TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST WITH A CLIENT, ESPECIALLY ONE COMING FROM ANOTHER CULTURE. WORKING ON THIS CASE HELPED CEMENT MY INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND MADE ME REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO FOCUS ON A CAUSE THAT I BELIEVE IN.”

—Elizabeth Barcohana '07, providing advice to students on how to succeed in summer and first-year associate positions



alumni spoke to admitted students at Law Day 2014

# THE USC GOULD INITIATIVE

By Lori Craig and Gillien Silsby

*“With some of the best minds in the legal profession, and some of the top experts in nearly every legal specialty, the USC Gould School of Law has an impressive reputation that makes it consistently among the finest in the nation. If you look at America’s most prominent law firms, you will find that many of the important positions of leadership are occupied by Trojans. And that makes all of us at USC very proud.”*

—USC PRESIDENT C. L. MAX NIKIAS

USC Gould this spring launched an historic \$150 million fundraising initiative as part of the Campaign for the University of Southern California, a multi-year effort to secure \$6 billion in private support from individual donors, foundations and corporations. The funds raised will provide scholarship support for students, attract additional outstanding faculty, and create space that fosters collaborative and inter-professional learning.

Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey ’82, speaking at a campaign launch event held in downtown L.A., recalled the nurturing environment USC Gould offered her as a student, and said the alumni

network was invaluable for her seamless transition from law school to the professional community.

“Law school for me was a nurturing environment where I felt my professors were invested in my success. When I graduated, I not only felt prepared to embark upon a career in law, but immediately realized the value of being a Trojan,” Lacey said. “USC Gould has value not just to each of us personally, but to the broader community, and this is why it’s worth investing in the future of this great institution and in the lives of the next generation of law students and those who will come after them.”

USC President C. L. Max Nikias recently announced that the Campaign for USC, which runs through 2018, passed the halfway point, with the Trojan Family contributing \$3.33 billion toward the goal. The law school’s partner effort will achieve measurable improvements to sustain and improve its position as a leader in legal education. To that end, the capital campaign seeks endowment and current-use funds to focus on four priorities: student scholarship support; ongoing strategic initiatives; innovative programs, including research centers and clinics; and enhanced facilities for learning. 📖

*“Our Campaign will enable the law school to apply USC’s transformative approach to the sphere of legal education. The practice of law is changing at the same time that the role of law in our society and across the globe is growing. The law school that understands these changes will set the standard for educating lawyers for the 21st century. In this new normal, USC Gould is hard at work crafting the legal education that will allow our graduates to thrive and lead in practice and policy around the world.”*

—DEAN ROBERT K. RASMUSSEN



above: Dean Robert K. Rasmussen, USC Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Elizabeth Garrett, Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey '82, USC Gould Board of Councilors Chair Ken Doran '81, USC President C. L. Max Nikias

*“We received a first-class legal education that has allowed us access to rewarding careers and rich lives. If we believe in the need to support USC’s continued ascendance as one of America’s greatest universities and if we believe in making USC Gould the top law school in Los Angeles and at the forefront of 21st century education, then now is the time to invest.”*

—KEN DORAN '81, USC GOULD BOARD OF COUNCILORS CHAIR; AND CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING PARTNER, GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER

## CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

**Capital Investment >>>> \$60 MILLION >>>>** New resources to re-imagine and renovate the school’s home building will give students, faculty and staff an environment better suited for a 21st-century educational experience befitting a law school of USC Gould’s stature.

**Faculty and Program Support >>>> \$40 MILLION >>>>** Gifts to provide essential support for the school’s interdisciplinary research centers, clinics, international opportunities, public service and other innovative programs further the law school’s momentum in creating more research and experiential learning opportunities for students and faculty.

**Student Scholarships >>>> \$35 MILLION >>>>** Fundraising for student scholarships will assist the law school in attracting and retaining an increasingly talented student body that finds it more and more difficult to afford a legal education. To maintain the school’s diversity requires significant new sources of funding to help relieve financial considerations for prospective students.

**Dean’s Strategic Support Fund >>>> \$15 MILLION >>>>** Unrestricted support allows the law school to invest in new initiatives and provides flexibility in the future. These essential resources enable the current and future deans to respond immediately wherever opportunities are most promising or the needs greatest.

*“[My scholarship to attend USC Gould] was a game-changer. Without that money, I would have ended up probably somewhere else, another law school, and it changed my destiny. What will be this, our generation’s, legacy? What are we going to leave? The way to leave it is to provide money so that people can get scholarships so that they can afford an education at an elite university like USC, and that’s how you effect change.”*

—LOS ANGELES DISTRICT ATTORNEY JACKIE LACEY '82

# JUDGE ALICEMARIE HUBER Marks 30

By David M. Walsh '85 and former Stotler clerk Kai S. Bartolomeo '08  
Morrison & Foerster LLP

**“USC launched me on a wondrous journey. It has been a trip in Wonderland.”** Judge Alicemarie Huber Stotler '64, JD '67 beamed her gratitude to the standing-

room-only crowd that had gathered in Orange County's Old Courthouse last fall to celebrate of the inauguration of the USC Gould scholarship fund named in her honor. “I have enjoyed my trip through it. ... I would do it all over again, in a heartbeat.”

Stotler marked her 30th year as a federal judge this May. Appointed by President Reagan in 1984, she soon emerged as a leader in both the Central District and in the burgeoning Southern Division (Orange County) of the District. She was elevated to Chief Judge in 2005, maintaining chambers in both courthouses.

She assumed senior status in 2009.

The Central District saw big changes during Stotler's tenure, including the planning and development of the Ronald Reagan Federal Courthouse — a project shepherded by Stotler and her fellow jurists. Before her appointment to the federal bench, she spent several years as an Orange County Deputy District Attorney (the first woman hired full time

into that office), and as an Orange County municipal, then superior, court judge. Stotler's career and reputation as a determined trailblazer is an inspiration to scores of law students, aspiring attorneys and even her fellow jurists.

As members of the bench and bar can attest, Stotler's name is synonymous with hard work and preparation. Whether ruling on a routine motion or deciding a novel, hot-button issue of law — such as her decision to issue a preliminary injunction prohibiting school officials from excluding a student infected with the AIDS virus — Stotler's approach is the same: read everything, research thoroughly, and rule as the law requires.

Among her many remarkable achievements, Stotler is perhaps most proud of her law clerks. During the past 30 years, she has selected 50 top students to join her chambers after graduation; dozens more have worked with her as externs during law school. Fourteen of the judge's law clerks graduated from the USC Gould School of Law. Uniformly, the judge's clerks and externs report that their time in chambers was one of the, if not the, most important parts of their legal educations, and provided an excellent foundation for their careers. As an added bonus, they learned how to write well and clearly; even legal opinions can sing.

To recognize and thank her, Stotler's law clerks undertook a fund-raising campaign that culminated in the establishment of the scholarship fund, celebrated at an event last fall.

“I know that all of us Stotler alums know that we would not be half the lawyers we are today were it not for the demands she placed on us that first year of our practice, and for that we are eternally grateful. ... I don't think any of us ever had a better teacher than Judge Stotler,” Master of Ceremonies Judge Jean Rosenbluth, '97, a former Stotler clerk, said as she opened the proceedings.



**ALICEMARIE HUBER STOTLER**  
1942-2014

# STOTLER '67 Federal Years



The Old Courthouse ceremonial courtroom was packed for the event. Stotler's colleagues from the federal and state court benches, prosecutors, defense lawyers, former and present law clerks, externs, family members and friends gathered to celebrate another milestone in her much storied career.

Speaking on behalf of the grateful USC Gould community, Dean Robert K. Rasmussen observed that “if any of the students selected to receive a Stotler Scholarship are simply 10 percent of the professional, the judge, the caring person that Alicemarie Stotler is, it will be a legacy that is almost equal to the legacy that she already established.”

Judge Jacqueline Chooljian '86, also a former Stotler clerk, summarized the key lessons Stotler imparts to each of her clerks.

“The judge made us understand that if you take on a job — whether it be legal secretary, a law clerk or a judge — it's incumbent upon you to do that job right and to the best of your ability, because that's what she's done her entire career,” Chooljian said.

In her closing remarks, Stotler looked philosophically back at her years of service.

“I have stood, figuratively speaking, in your shoes ... [at] many functions like this where senior judge or a master attorney is honored,” she said. “And I thought to myself, ‘That old guy has seen a lot.’ And should you harbor a parallel thought about me this evening, you would be right.

“But the comment and thought I didn't have at the time was that that person didn't travel alone. There were persons, seen and unseen, known and unknown, who were on that path with them.” 🍷

Read more at [lawmag.usc.edu](http://lawmag.usc.edu) 📶

above: Judge Stotler, center, with some of her former clerks, including Kimberly Encinas '05, Judge Jacqueline Chooljian '86, Judge Jean Rosenbluth '93, Kai S. Bartolomeo '08, Michael Kniffen '09, Matthew Cave '11, Brent Colasurdo '11, and Devon Myers '05.

Shortly before *USC Law Magazine* went to press, Judge Stotler died at home after a long illness. Our condolences go out to her family and friends.

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Students pursue externships in the nation's capital

By Andrew Clark

## Whether for summer break or a semester, law students pursue externships all over the country.

The work reinforces classroom lessons or desired career goals and offers the chance to write briefs or provide legal advice to counsel. For many students, it can be an experience they carry for decades.

To provide students with a chance to bridge their classroom experience to the professional world, USC Gould's Office of Public Service offers a Judicial and Clinical Externship program. These are not your typical summer jobs. For over 10 years, the program has been giving students the chance to receive academic credit to gain experience at positions located throughout the country — and beyond.

"It's an opportunity for real-world practice," says Malissa Barnwell-Scott, director of the Office of Public Service. "It is a confidence-builder for students and an opportunity to get their name and work out there with a practicing attorney."

### NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUMMER EXPERIENCE

Students may work for attorneys at nonprofits or government agencies, or with a judge. In past years, students have received placements at the American Civil Liberties Union, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, among others — Washington, D.C., is a popular destination.

On average, 40 students pursue externships each semester, says Prof. Rebecca Lonergan, associate director of the Legal Writing and Advocacy Program, who also oversees externships. During the summer, that number doubles to roughly 80. For the most part, the externships are placed domestically, though Lonergan notes that past years have seen students take positions overseas, including at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Students may choose placements from a

pre-approved list, or submit a new site for approval, as one of the key elements of the program is allowing the students to work under the direct supervision of practicing attorneys.

"The externship is an important bridge for what students learn in the classroom and it allows them to put it into practice," Lonergan says. "They learn how to think like a lawyer and then they get to apply it. Externships allow students to practice in a supportive environment."

### APPLYING KNOWLEDGE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Rick Bohm '14 spent three months as an extern with the Internal Revenue Service's Office of Chief Counsel, Financial Institutions and Products, in Washington, D.C. With a keen interest in tax law, the Denver native saw the position as an ideal fit.

"I saw it as a great opportunity to work on the government side," Bohm says. "It gave me an understanding of what I will be going up against one day."

His days varied, giving him a range of experience in his future field. Some days he created models of financial transactions, testing the possible impacts of regulation changes. At other times he advised field attorneys on issues involving financial products or draft documents, such as Notices of Proposed Adjustments.

In Bohm's eyes, the benefits of his externship were two-fold.

"First, there was the networking aspect," says Bohm, who this fall will be in private practice in New York City. "It's a real benefit to know people in the IRS and have friends who I can call to talk over issues. Second, I got to work with the Internal Revenue Code. In law school, my experience with it was abstract. But to actually get to work with real fact patterns is an experience I wouldn't necessarily get in the classroom."

Jasmyn Richardson '13 spent her 3L fall semester in an externship in Washington, D.C., with the Department of Justice



in the Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section. With a desire to spend her career fighting for civil rights, Richardson couldn't pass up the chance. Under the supervision of a government trial attorney, Richardson received different assignments each day, either research-related or writing-based.

"The supervising attorney signs on to say that they will mentor a student," she says. "The attorney can provide insight about a practice area and assist a student as they create their career path."

Ultimately, as students prepare for graduation and the impending bar exam, there is an inher-

*left: Jasmyn Richardson '13*

*right: Rick Bohm '14*


**“They learn how to think like a lawyer and then they get to apply it.”** —PROF. REBECCA LONERGAN

"It was a great experience and I got to have the direct supervision of an attorney," says Richardson, who is a staff attorney with the Advancement Project. "It's something I was able to tie into interviews. I could open up about my experience working for these very strong, positive advocates. It's something that I'm very proud of."

#### **A LEG UP IN THE JOB MARKET**

One of the trademark qualities of the externship program is the presence of a supervising attorney, bringing a higher level of accountability, Barnwell-Scott says.

ent value to having an externship at the top of their resume, especially facing a challenging job market.

"I think the externship is very valuable right now," says Barnwell-Scott. "Having this resume-builder really can make a difference. One of the great things about this program is that it is open to all law students, not just those at the top of the class. An externship offers the opportunity to network and connect the dots between the classroom and real-world practice. The skills and knowledge gained in an externship can make a tremendous difference in our students' confidence." 



# Home Again

PCJP students win freedom for imprisoned woman

By Gilien Silsby

**A 74-year-old grandmother enjoyed her first Mother's Day with her family in more than three decades this spring after being released from prison.** Mary Virginia Jones, known as "Mother Mary"

"I am ecstatic and incredibly grateful to USC law school and the Post-Conviction Justice Project," said Jones's daughter, Denitra Jones-Goodie, who has remained steadfast in support of her mother. "This is going to be the best Mother's Day ever."

**"The procedural history of Mary's case gave me a greater appreciation for the pitfalls of the justice system."** —LAURA DONALDSON '15

to family and friends, was represented by law students with USC's Post-Conviction Justice Project.

She had served 32 years for crimes committed by her batterer.

Jones appeared in Los Angeles Superior Court on the day of her release. Dozens of family and friends packed the courtroom, several screaming out cries of joy when the judge announced she would go free.



A dedicated mother and church member, Jones was convicted of first-degree murder without the possibility of parole in 1982. The case against the former Los Angeles Unified School District teacher's aide wound through four trials, including a reversal on appeal because the court failed to properly instruct the jury and excluded evidence of her duress defense, and two hung juries.

Students with the PCJP investigated Jones's case and challenged her convictions, arguing that she would not have been convicted if the jury had heard expert testimony on the effects of intimate partner battering, formerly known as Battered Woman Syndrome.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's office conducted an independent investigation of Jones's claims and agreed to set aside her convictions in exchange for a no-contest plea to voluntary manslaughter and a time-served sentence.

Jones was charged in the 1981 murder after her abuser, Mose Willis, kidnapped two drug dealers and ordered Jones at gunpoint to drive a car to a back alley in Los Angeles. Willis shot both men as Jones ran from the scene. She hid from Willis at a friend's house and was arrested a few days later.

A week prior to the crime, Willis shot at Jones's daughter and threatened to kill both of them if they went to the police.

"Mr. Willis forced Jones at gunpoint to participate in the robbery and kidnapping — she ran down the alley fully expecting him to shoot and kill her, too," said Heidi Rummel, co-director of the Post-Conviction Justice Project.

Willis was later convicted of shooting two men and killing one.

Before she was arrested, Jones owned a home in South Los Angeles, worked full-time as a teacher's aide and was very involved in her church, Rummel says. She met Willis just months before the crime in 1981, when he was homeless. She invited him into her home and brought him to church because he professed his desire to "live a clean life." Jones had never been arrested before she was prosecuted for Willis's crimes.

USC Gould students Laura Donaldson '15 and Mark Fahey '13 worked on Jones's case for the past several years.

"The procedural history of Mary's case gave me a greater appreciation for the pitfalls of the justice

system," Donaldson says. "After first learning that it took four trials to convict Mary, I was shocked and even more motivated to get her out of prison. I am so happy that Mary is finally getting the justice she deserves and is able to go home to her family after serving 32 years



for crimes for which she should never have been convicted."

Fahey, an intellectual property associate in the Palo Alto office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, worked on the case for about two years, starting the summer after his 1L year. He says the experience taught him the factual side of law.

"Mary had four complete trial transcripts, which meant that it was a very large file cabinet full of pages of facts to read and put together," Fahey says. "It was a great experience to realize how a lot of these legal concepts we discuss in law school have a factual underside that the clinic exposed me to and prepared me for practicing law.

"And it was great having someone as wonderful as Mary keep me motivated and on track." 📖

*left: Prof. Heidi Rummel, Denitra Jones-Goodie and Laura Donaldson '15 celebrate the release of Mary Virginia Jones.*

*above: Jones appeared in Los Angeles Superior Court to plead no contest.*

*Both photos by Al Seib/ Los Angeles Times.*

# Breaking B

*Prof. Ron Garett and wife Susan foster a home away from home*

By Maria Iacobo

**Weekly lunches with students are mainstays in Prof. Ron Garett's 36-year teaching career.**

"As the years go by your students teach you more and more," Garett says.

This past year, Garett, the Carolyn Craig Franklin Chair in Law and Religion, and his wife, Susan, shared more than picnics and brown bag lunches. The Garett family are the faculty residents at Terrace, the USC student apartment building for law and graduate students. It is a role they long hoped to take on together.

The Garett family met while attending Yale Divinity School, Ron earning a doctorate in theology and Susan studying to become a minister. Divinity students were housed as a community with faculty "modeling the life of the ministry professionally and personally," Garett says.

"As we were falling in love and making commitments to one another, we were doing that with the blessing and support of our teachers, two of whom officiated at our wedding. They were there for us above and beyond the job description of a teacher."

This nurturing experience left an indelible imprint on the couple and they planned to do "something pastoral" someday. Fast forward through the years with the Garett family raising their children, Winnie and Pippin, and Ron teaching theological ethics and constitutional law. Now, nearing life as empty nesters and with Susan retired from the ministry, the opportunity at Terrace arose.

"What we loved about [the venture] is the opportunity to share life with our students and do it as a team," Garett says.

Adds Susan, "The USC family took us in when Ron and I arrived in 1978 and we've always felt like a family at the law school and university. Whenever we can, we want to give back and make our lives a statement about USC being a family. Being dorm parents is a wonderful way to try and make it family and not just a dormitory."

Terrace houses 40 first-year law students, 15 LL.M. students and another 15 international students in various graduate programs. The Garett family determined that "hominess" was what the students most needed.

"First-year law students in particular are stressed out and anxious," says Garett. "They don't need enrichment activities. They need friendship, support and hominess. And that means good home-cooked dinners, not a pizza delivery."

During orientation the Garett family hosted a dinner to welcome all 70 students. The rest of the year they've held Sunday dinners in their apartment, four students at a time.

"If there are four law students they decompress in a way they all recognize from their first-year stresses. If it's a mixed group, they can't talk shop. It's helpful for the 1Ls to hear that a graduate student in another school is working just as hard. [They can recognize that though they're] working hard, they're not breaking new ground in the human experience," Garett says with a laugh. "It's equally good whichever way it goes."

Susan noted the first semester was particularly stressful for the 1Ls and she was ready with a hug, a smile or a sympathetic ear.

"I'm also a big believer in chocolate," she says of her frequent confection distributions around the dorm.

"I don't have the luxury of going home on weekends," Emily Grimm '16 of Lexington, KY, says. "The family experience the Garett family offer us is very comforting. They really spoil us."

When the couple noticed foreign students were reticent to attend dinners, Susan knocked on doors, initiated conversations and casually invited them to dinner – always receiving an enthusiastic 'yes.'

Notes Garett about his wife, "she's a lot more courageous than I am. I might spend a fruitless hour wondering if I should or shouldn't knock on the door or if I was being intrusive."

# read

Besides connecting on a personal level, both J.D. and LL.M. students appreciate connecting professionally. Foreign students study in the U.S., in part, to meet their American counterparts and many USC Gould J.D. students aspire to a global practice.

“There’s a Chinese saying: ‘If you don’t see a person while looking up, you’ll see that person while looking down,’” says Justin Ye Zhu ’14, an LL.M. candidate about living at Terrace. “It allows for more shared experiences with the J.D. candidates.”

Zhu also speaks fondly of getting to know the Garets, whether through dinners or the occasional walks from campus back home with Ron at the end of the day. Living at Terrace with the Garets has “enhanced” his experience at USC Gould.

“When you talk to faculty over a dinner table eating home-cooked food you can talk about all kinds of things that you wouldn’t talk about in the classroom or in office hours,” Susan says. “It’s a wonderful way to enhance your graduate work.”

Though the chief support the couple provides is that of a surrogate family, there have been occasions when students sought counseling, an area where Susan is skilled. When students permit Susan to discuss the issue with Ron, the couple work as a team, an element of the resident role they appreciate.

“One of the things that happens in a life partnership is you get a chance to admire your partner’s abilities and create a team that’s bigger than what any individual can do,” Ron says. “[This experience has] been just as good as we hoped it would be.”

“Ron has always loved his students,” Susan says. “This is a new way to express his love.” 📚



*Prof. Ron and Susan Garett relax with law students in a common area of the Terrace apartment building.*

# Shaping Showbiz

Students train in entertainment deals with former studio chief Alan J. Levine '71

By Lori Craig

**Alan J. Levine '71** had always wanted to craft a course that would help law and business students transition from the academic world to the practice of law or careers as business executives in the entertainment and media world. Ultimately, the former studio chief assembled material containing a hypothetical sequence of transactions and more than 1,000 pages of supporting documents for students to tackle in his two skill-oriented courses.

"I wanted students to tap into the skills they have already developed and learn to utilize them in identifying and solving real practical legal and business problems while structuring deals, drafting and negotiating agreements – what you do as a business or transactional lawyer or business executive, not what you do as a student," says Levine, managing partner of Canon Media Partners (the former J. P. Morgan Entertainment Advisors, which Levine formed in 2007).

Using the motion picture business as a proxy for any industry, his unique hands-on seminars *Business Planning: Structuring and Financing a New Enterprise, and Deal Structure, Drafting & Negotiation* expose students to all aspects of forming, financing and operating a new motion picture production company. The one-of-a-kind courses also take students on a journey through a mix of legal, tax and business issues involved in setting up a new business and producing and distributing content.

"You can teach these courses in any business context," Levine says. He encourages J.D., MBA, and J.D./MBA students to enroll so they can see all sides of each transaction and become accustomed to working in constant contact with each other, whether as lawyers or business professionals.

Entertainment is an industry that Levine knows intimately from many different perspectives. He built a diverse law practice after graduating from USC Gould, specializing in representing individuals and companies in all aspects of the entertainment business. When Sony Corp. purchased Columbia Pictures Entertainment



Inc., Levine left his practice as a senior partner at Armstrong, Hirsch & Levine to become president and chief operating officer of Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc., where for more than seven years he was responsible for all aspects of SPE's business and corporate operations, which included the motion picture, television, home entertainment, merchandising, exhibition, studio facilities and company activities worldwide.

"I always wanted to have an experience of running a large entertainment company. Sony gave me that opportunity, which included the exercise of every muscle in my brain on a daily basis. It was fantastic," Levine says.

Levine looks forward to doubling his time in class and increasing enrollment in his courses to meet the new demand from curious students. His career as a USC Gould lecturer amounts to his fourth career reinvention. "This is the last time," he says. With Levine, we'll take that as a "maybe." 🚀

# Best of Both (Business) Worlds

Michael Chasalow connects the theoretical with the practical in new business orgs textbook

By Gilien Silsby

**After teaching business organizations for more than a decade, Prof. Michael Chasalow has seen his share of law textbooks — most are either traditional theory-based casebooks or a collection of purely practical exercises.**

Yet, to prepare for today's legal world, students demand a combination of both the theoretical underpinnings and the practical experiences, especially when studying business organizations.

"Law students will eventually face real-world challenges in a firm, the courtroom or in-house," Chasalow says. "Understanding business law and its practical application are crucial."

Chasalow created that balance with his newly published textbook, "Experiencing Business Organizations" (West Academic Publishing). Each chapter begins with a case study — or as Chasalow calls it, an "experiencing assignment."

For example, the first chapter builds an understanding of issues that arise in a legal practice — both addressing clients' concerns and putting them in context. Students are presented with a hypothetical client, Burger Barn, along with facts, ... case studies and assignments designed to give students a more comprehensive understanding of business law and the context in which the principles of agency law would be used to address the needs of a client.

Other clients and assignments are laid out in chapters covering critical areas including partnerships, corporations, securities law, insider trading, and mergers and acquisitions.

"The study of business organizations is packed with a large number of rules," Chasalow says. "The rules alone can be dry and, without context, difficult to grasp. I wanted to provide exercises that mirror the work an associate in a law firm might be asked to do for a client. In order to provide strategic advice to business clients, attorneys must have a thorough understanding of these many concepts."

James Cahoy, editor of West Academic Publishing, says law professors have clamored for a textbook that integrates skill-based exercises into a traditional casebook framework.



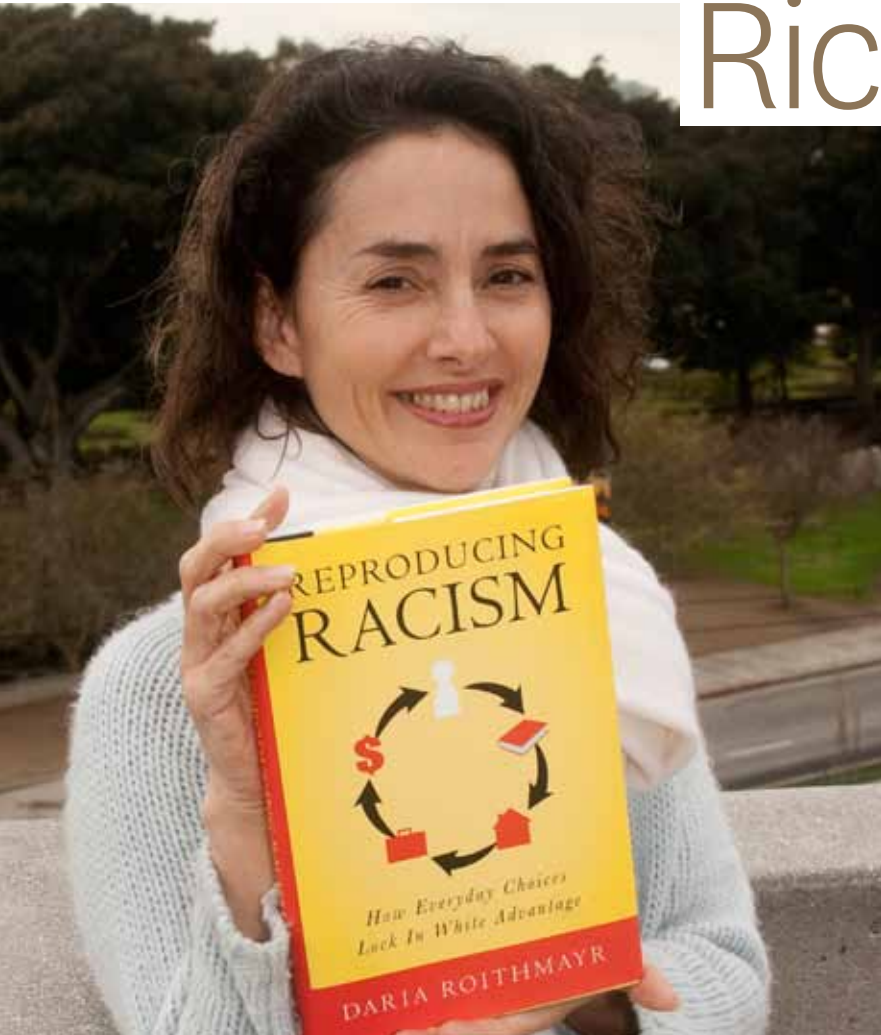
"Michael has really revolutionized teaching corporations and business organizations in law schools with this publication," Cahoy says.

Chasalow previously worked as a transactional attorney, and spent several years involved with private equity groups focused on the development and financing of early stage companies. He founded and for the past seven years has directed the USC Small Business Clinic.

"I wanted to weave my experiences in practice and in skills-based teaching into the fundamental principles of business law taught in a more traditional course. 'Experiencing Business Organizations' is the product of these efforts." 📖

# “A Racial ‘Rich get Richer’ Story”

Daria Roithmayr Explores the Cycle of White Advantage



By Gilien Silsby

**Five years after the inauguration of the first black president, racial inequality lives on, reproducing itself in a vicious cycle.** Even if all discrimination were to end tomorrow, self-reinforcing racial disparities would continue, according to the new book “Reproducing Racism: How Everyday Choices Lock in White Advantage” (NYU Press), by Prof. Daria Roithmayr.

Roithmayr focuses on racial gaps in housing, education and jobs. Drawing on work in social network theory and other disciplines, Roithmayr argues that everyday choices recreate these racial gaps from one generation to the next.

Roithmayr focuses on racial gaps in housing, education and jobs. Drawing on work in social network theory and other disciplines, Roithmayr argues that everyday choices recreate these racial gaps from one generation to the next.

“It’s really a racial ‘rich get richer’ story,” says Roithmayr, the George T. and Harriet E. Pfleger Chair in Law. “It’s all about the power of networks.”

Whites in well-paid jobs refer their friends for jobs, who in turn refer their friends and so on, she writes. White networks have more high-paid jobs; black and brown network contacts are more likely to be under- or unemployed. Likewise, affluent white neighborhoods finance their schools with property taxes, providing students with richer learning experiences and opportunities. Those graduates go on to live in the same or equally affluent neighborhoods and pay property taxes to further support the schools.

“It turns out that racial inequality persists because the old clichés are true: it does take money to make money, and it really isn’t what you know but who you know,” Roithmayr says. “Because racial disparities now run on automatic pilot, these gaps will continue even in the absence of intentional discrimination.”

Will affirmative action programs or an increase in school funding help to dismantle this cumulative inequality? Unfortunately not, says Roithmayr. She suggests broader-scale restructuring. One idea she favors is baby bonds, a program that gives babies from low-wealth families a sum of money that they can access for houses or education when they come of age, to recreate the kind of head start that family wealth gives whites.

Another idea is to encourage workplaces that are predominantly white to use digital networks that include people of color, at least until the workplace is sufficiently diverse.

“Fifty percent of all jobs are filled by word of mouth,” Roithmayr says. “We have to create opportunities for white workplaces to hire using networks that aren’t all white.”

Without structural change, racial disparity will persist, she says. “We have to change how we think about race. We will make no real progress as long as racial inequality keeps reproducing itself automatically.”

# SCHOLARLY ROLE MODELS

Profs. Tom Lyon and Chris Stone receive honors

By Maria Iacobo

**Christopher D. Stone, the J. Thomas McCarthy Trustee Chair in Law, Emeritus, received the 2014 Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award at USC's 33rd annual Academic Honors Convocation.** Awarded to a very select number of retired faculty at the annual Academic Honors Con-

Stone is an authority on environmental and global issues, including environmental ethics and trade and the environment. Two of his books — “Earth and Other Ethics” and “The Gnat is Older Than Man: Global Environment and Human Agenda” — received the Phi Kappa Phi Faculty Recognition Award.

“His ideas not only shaped the thinking of other academics but were taken up both by activists in the emerging environmental movement and then by judges, including on the United States Supreme Court,” says Prof. Alexander Capron.

Also this spring, Tom Lyon, the Judge Edward J. and Ruey L. Guirado Chair in Law and Psychology, earned the 2014 Provost's Mentoring Award. Bestowed by Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Elizabeth Garrett, the award recognizes the value of helping students and younger faculty succeed in their own research and professional development.

Under Lyon's tutelage last year were two recent USC grads, a graduate student in Social Work, a post-doctorate, a law student, and 17 undergraduates majoring in psychology and serving as research assistants.

“I just do what I do because I enjoy doing it and it helps me get my work done,” says Lyon (left). “You find good students, you work with them and give them more and more responsibility, because as independent workers they can do great things — and I can get more work done. This is the way I would think everyone would want to work. When I come into the office there's lots of people here and lots of interaction. It just makes life so much more enjoyable when I work with more students.” 🍷



vocation, the award “recognizes eminent careers and notable contributions to the university, the profession and the community.”

Stone retired last year following a 48 year career at USC Gould (above, right). Widely admired for his influential books — including the environmental classic “Do Trees Have Standing?” — and a co-creator of the law school's signature first-year course Law, Language and Values, Stone was a professor adored by generations of students.

“This is a well-deserved honor,” says Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. “Chris's scholarship has had an enduring influence on environmental law. He is an inspiration and model for all of us.”

# TIES THAT BIND

## Alumni and 1Ls connect for annual Mentor Lunch

By Gilien Silsby

**It's been almost 30 years since Steve Mindel '85 earned his law degree at USC, yet the managing partner of one of the largest family law firms in Los Angeles continues to marvel at the strength of the Trojan Network.**

And that's one of the reasons Mindel is committed to giving back by attending USC Gould's Mentor Lunch, a unique networking opportunity that matches first-year law students with working professionals and often fosters lasting relationships.

"Today between 15 and 20 percent of my clients come from the Trojan Family," said Mindel, a managing partner at Feinberg, Mindel, Brandt & Klein. "It is very powerful and real."

Mindel was one of 240 USC Gould alumni who attended the lunch — the highest attendance in its history. To the continued amazement of Dean Robert K. Rasmussen, who welcomed attendees, alums outnumbered students by more than 100. He thanked the alumni for generously giving their time to the benefit of the next generation of USC Gould graduates.

"Every year we have more and more alums who come back to campus for this special event," Rasmussen said. "It really speaks to who we are. As students, you are truly lucky to have this time with senior, accomplished attorneys."

At the lunch, Jonathan Levinson '16 sat next to Karen Grant-Selma '94, vice president of business affairs at AMC Networks.

"It's a great opportunity for me to interact with leading entertainment attorneys and learn from their experiences," said Levinson, who wants to work in entertainment law.

Grant-Selma said she remembers the value of attending the lunch as a law student.

"It was a great opportunity to hear from seasoned professionals," she said. "They told me what I needed to develop to make it in entertainment law. They gave me a lot and now I want to give back." 📌

For a complete slideshow, please visit USC Law Magazine online at: [lawmag.usc.edu](http://lawmag.usc.edu) 📶

top: Jonathan Levinson '16, Karen Grant-Selma '94, Ashley Bobo '16

second: Thai Phan '15

third: Kimberley David '13, Andrew McCraven '16, Suzanne Huntley Levy '01, Nicole Houman '16, Joseph Klein '82

bottom: Patrick Elahmadie '16





# A New Perspective

LL.M. grads bring legal lessons home

By Lori Craig

**Alumni often credit USC Gould with imparting the invaluable ability to “think like a lawyer.”**

Make that “think like an American lawyer” for the nearly 200 students who enroll each year in USC Gould’s Graduate and International Programs. These students sometimes have years of experience thinking like lawyers, having temporarily left behind careers abroad as law firm associates, corporate counsel, government attorneys and judges to study in Los Angeles.

However, their USC Gould education often proves just as transformative as it does for their J.D. counterparts as these attorneys explore the intricacies of the American legal system. For this reason, the Korean government annually enrolls prosecutors and judges at USC Gould.

“The Korean Supreme Court wants Korean judges to learn lots of different systems of law in case we need to help the government design a more suitable legal system,” says Shin Young Park ’14 (right), a recent Master of Laws (LL.M.) graduate who has been a district judge for seven years. The country partially implemented a jury system less than six years ago. “The American system is still more advanced in some areas, especially in some commercial laws or intellectual property laws, so when something unprecedented happens, we have to know what to do.”

Do Wook “Peter” Shin LL.M. ’14 (left), a prosecutor from the Korean Ministry of Justice, notes that the Korean legal system has “developed a lot within a very short period. We are proud of that, but we also know we are not perfect yet.”

At USC Gould, Shin focused on entertainment law to gain more exposure to unfamiliar topics like copyright.

“Entertainment law is changing very rapidly, and because law is social science — changing according to changes in society — enter-



tainment law is one of the [best] reflections of society,” Shin says.

“I want to be a proactive person, I want to look forward to the future and how to handle new changes, and in that point, entertainment law is the most inspiring.”

Park and Shin even found themselves learning about the law in a completely new way.

“I didn’t know how to analyze a single case,” says Shin, who has a summer internship with the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s office and will take the bar before returning to Korea in January. “In Korea, our classes just focused on delivering information, not on interacting with the professor or other students, so this year was very interesting.”

“The experience has broadened my perspective,” Park says. “Still, I learned that the essence of law doesn’t vary that much. There are many technicalities, but you don’t have to be a slave to them. Now I may be able to be more confident when I have to make judicial decisions.” 🏛️

# Seeking International Justice

Prestigious fellowship takes Brian Rifkin '11 to The Hague

By Gilien Silsby

**Brian Rifkin '11 has always been interested in justice for victims of atrocities. From a young age, he was exposed to stories of the Holocaust, and grew up in a community attuned to human rights issues.** While in law school and the summer following graduation, Rifkin worked on cases pending in



the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia with USC Gould's International Human Rights Clinic.

Rifkin's international work continued when, as a litigation associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett in New York, he was awarded a

competitive one-year fellowship working with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon Chambers in The Hague.

An anonymous gift from a USC Gould alumni funded Rifkin's one-year fellowship, which culminates in August.

"I am honored to be working with the judges at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon Chambers," Rifkin said. "I am interested in working toward justice for international crimes and this opportunity has built upon the training I received during my clinical experience at USC Gould."

As a law clerk for Tribunal President David Baragwanath and Judge Nicola Lettieri, among others, Rifkin assists in drafting decisions and working with the judges throughout the deliberation process. Much of the work concerns evidentiary disputes between the parties and the rights of the defense with respect to preparing for trial. He also helps prepare judges' speeches and publications on wide-ranging international law topics and analyzes and monitors developments in international law.

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon was created to investigate and prosecute those responsible for the 2005 terrorist attack in Beirut, which killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri and 22 others. It is the first international tribunal to declare terrorism an international crime.

"This has been a tremendous honor for both Brian and USC," said USC Gould Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. "I consider it a priority to prepare students with the legal knowledge and skills required for working in a globalized world."

Rifkin brings unique experience to his job. In 2011, after graduating from USC Gould, he served as a judicial intern to Judge Rowan Downing at the Cambodia Tribunal in Phnom Penh, working on the Khmer Rouge trials involving some of history's worst crimes against humanity.

"My experience at the Cambodia Tribunal, and now at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, cemented my desire to work in the area of international law," Rifkin said. "I hope these international criminal tribunals achieve a measure of justice for victims and advance important moral and legal principles." 🗡️

## HONOR ROLL



**Rand Getlin '09** was nominated for an Associated Press Sports Editors award for investigative journalism. This is the third consecutive year that Getlin, a reporter and legal analyst for Yahoo! Sports, has finished in the top 10. Getlin also delivered opening remarks at the first annual University of Pennsylvania Law School Symposium.



**Steffi Gascón Hafén '10** was elected by the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County to serve on its Board of Directors. Hafén is an associate with Snell & Wilmer, where she handles estate planning and taxation matters.

**Justice Joyce Kennard '74** retired from the California Supreme Court. Kennard had served on the court since 1989. She was a Los Angeles trial judge and an appeals court justice before being elevated to the State Supreme Court.



**Nathaniel M. Lactman '04** was elected to Foley & Lardner LLP partnership. Lactman is a member of the health care industry team at the firm's Tampa, Fla., office, and focuses his practice on representing health care clients.

**Wendy Larson '04** was named a World Leading Trademark Professional in the *World Trademark Review 1000*, which recognizes the top trademark attorneys and firms.

**Derek Lazzaro '09** is the new assistant chief information officer at USC. Lazzaro previously served as manager of academic initiatives and counsel in the office of the provost at USC.



For **Seth Levy '01**, pro bono work has always been more than just a side pursuit; it is a "significant part" of his life that mixes professional and personal interests.

"A great joy of this profession is to participate in public interest and pro bono work and help people," Levy says. "You can always find time for the things that are really important to you, and I've been fortunate to find projects that I'm proud to be a part of and that ... benefit the LGBT community."


Levy, who was "bit by the public interest bug" while attending USC Gould, has worked with the ACLU of Southern California, OneJustice, the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, the HIV/AIDS Legal Services Alliance and the Alliance for Children's Rights.

His recent endeavor, the It Gets Better Project, "took off overnight" in late 2010. As the Project grew to more than 50,000 user-generated videos, Levy managed business and legal operations and



**Karl Lindegren '86**, a partner at Fisher & Phillips LLP, was recognized as a top attorney in *The Best Lawyers in America 2014*. He represents employers in all areas of labor and employment law.



**Nina Ries '01** wrote an article on employment litigation and social media, published in the October 2013 issue of *Advocate Magazine*. Ries is principal of the Ries Law Group in Santa Monica, Calif. Read Ries's article at [lawmag.usc.edu](http://lawmag.usc.edu). 

**Lee W. Tsao '96** was appointed and sworn in as a judge for the Superior Court of Los Angeles County. Previously, Tsao served for more than 16 years as a deputy public defender at the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office.

**Elena Villaseñor Sullivan '04** was included in S.A. Scene's 2013 "Best S.A. Lawyers" list. She is a partner in Jackson Walker's San Antonio office, where she handles business and general litigation.



**Monte Widders '69** was recognized by the Ventura County Bar Association for his public service. He received the Ben E. Nordman Public Service Award for outstanding contributions through community, charitable or other public service. Widders is a founding partner of the Ventura-based law firm Myers, Widders, Gibson, Jones & Feingold LLP.

as CEO and chair currently oversees a staff of four employees and dozens of volunteers.

The Project has grown in scope as well, producing several television specials, expanding through more than a dozen international affiliates and launching BETTERLegal, which aims to improve legal advocacy around issues confronting LGBT youth by leveraging the Project's video library, social media and law student volunteers.

Meanwhile, Levy continues to grow his intellectual property practice at Nixon Peabody, focusing largely on patent procurement, licensing and clinical research transactions in life sciences and health care.

He was promoted to managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles office last fall. "It's a terrific office with a lot of energy; a lot of good things happening," Levy says, "and this new role offers a different way to work with my colleagues than I had before."

# Working in the West Wing

Rishi Sahgal '07 satisfies zeal for politics

By Andrew Clark

**Interning for Bill Clinton's 1996 re-election campaign isn't exactly the typical teenage experience.** Yet for 15-year-old Rishi Sahgal '07, bypassing trips to the movies for a chance to cut his teeth in the political world influenced him beyond expectation.



“Registering new voters, making phone calls, and persuading people to turn out was all so new to me,” Sahgal says. “Only later did I realize that this was what the Obama field campaigns had revolutionized.”

Over the next dozen years, the South Pasadena native would work on four different presidential campaigns, including Barack Obama's initial bid in 2008. Through his work on the Obama

campaign, Sahgal came into contact with a number of people who would go on to work in the administration, important relationships that ultimately led to his own staff position at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

In the early years of the Obama presidency, Sahgal wore a number of different hats, but these days, he's settled into his role as deputy associate counsel in the Office of the White House Counsel.

It's a job that combines Sahgal's two passions: the legal and the political worlds.

“It's a unique mix of law, and that makes [this job] very interesting,” Sahgal says.

On a given day, Sahgal's responsibilities can run the gamut. He may work with potential Senate-confirmed nominees, check in with agency colleagues, or train staff on the laws that apply to them. Ultimately, Sahgal says, his days involve a healthy dose of strategy sessions peppered with checking items off his to-do list.

However, he makes it a priority to stop in the hallways if he sees the Commander-in-Chief's two dogs, Sunny and Bo.

Life can move at a dizzying speed working at the White House. Sahgal says the unparalleled environment can prove to be one of the greatest challenges of his gig.

“What makes the job interesting is how fast-paced it is,” Sahgal says. “You have to pay attention to every detail that comes through. It's complex, but I wouldn't change it for anything.”

For a lifelong fan of the political world, working as a lawyer for the White House is an honor for Sahgal. He says that working on campaigns inspired him to pursue a career path in public service. And as he notes, having the chance to work in the Obama White House has given him an opportunity to make a positive impact in the world.

“I feel tremendously grateful for this opportunity to serve,” Sahgal says. “When I graduated from law school, I had dreamed of the possibility, and for it to come to fruition has been amazing. I feel blessed.” 🍷

# PASSION *for* FASHION

Lawyer-turned-blogger Jenny Wu '07 enjoys life “in the fab lane”

By Maria Iacobo

**Jenny Wu '07 was sartorially inclined even as a child growing up in Shanghai.** Her mom knitted her dresses because store-bought clothes were “very bland.” Immigrating to Arcadia, Calif., at 7 years old, Wu was delighted by the variety of fashion available and reveled in shopping.

While she knew fashion was “innately a part of [her],” Wu forged a direct path to law school. Her parents impressed upon her and her brother that to achieve the American Dream meant going “to a good school ... and becoming a doctor or lawyer.

“They saw a certainty in those careers,” Wu says. “For them, things were so uncertain. They uprooted their lives to come here.”

Wu earned degrees in political science and communications at USC and headed straight to law school. After listening to Jeff Lubell, founder of True Religion Jeans, at a USC event, Wu introduced herself and expressed an interest in working for him.

“[Working at True Religion] was a marriage between my love for fashion and my love for law,” Wu says. “I remember thinking that if I could combine the two into a career it would be something I’d want to do for the rest of my life.”

Shortly after law school, Wu joined Culver City-based Tokidoki, a global fashion brand, as associate in-house counsel. She thrived in the young company’s creative energy; six months later she was overseeing the legal department.

“At Tokidoki, I learned that if you’re not willing to open yourself up to new things and experiences, you will never know your own potential.”

Wu started her blog “Good, Bad, and Fab” as a creative outlet. Billed as “personal style and fashion musings of an L.A. fashion



lawyer living life in the fab lane,” the blog caught on quickly with readers. Soon fashion, beauty and lifestyle companies were requesting to partner with her and inviting her to events.

Working as an attorney by day and blogger by night eventually brought Wu to a crossroads.

“I realized I could always return to work as a traditional lawyer, but [the opportunity to build my own ‘brand’] wouldn’t come knocking a second time,” Wu says. “I had to take a leap of faith.”

Wu hasn’t looked back. Her legal skills are still in play as she manages her business. She collaborates with national brands, such as Macy’s and Ann Taylor, as well as small companies seeking exposure. She also is in demand to review products or provide style tips at fashion events.

Wu says readers connect with her precisely because she’s just like them.

“I’m a lawyer, not a professional arbiter of fashion,” she says. “I provide my interpretation of what’s on the runway and how I incorporate it in my everyday life. Readers identify with that personal element.”

# Leading the Way



## R. Scott Jenkins '79 directs Pasadena's main event

By Lori Craig

**As the warm morning sun shone over Pasadena on the first day of the year, R. Scott Jenkins '79, president of the 2014 Tournament of Roses, rode atop the Budweiser beer wagon pulled by eight Clydesdales and reflected on his year at the helm of the iconic Rose Bowl and Rose Parade.**

Turning onto Colorado Boulevard, taking in the view of the snow-capped San Gabriel Mountains, Jenkins gazed down the five-and-a-half-mile parade route at the nearly 1 million spectators.

"That's a powerful moment — hugely powerful," says Jenkins, who has volunteered with the Tournament for the past 33 years. "What I like to share is the hope and joy that the Tournament brings to not only America but the entire world: the hope that this year is going to be better for mankind, and the joy of this beautiful parade and the marvelous football game that we put on — what better way to start the new year? I won't soon forget that moment."

The Jan. 1 festivities capped Jenkins's year of duties as president, which included choosing the theme of "Dreams Come True," securing Dodgers announcer Vin Scully as grand marshal, and six months of nearly constant world-wide travel to promote the 125th annual parade and 100th annual bowl game.

Fortunately, Hahn & Hahn, where Jenkins is a partner with a business and real estate law practice focusing on land use matters, is

more than supportive of its lawyers getting involved in the community. In fact, it is expected at the Pasadena firm, where Jenkins has enjoyed support through a number of community endeavors, including serving as board member of San Marino Unified School District, Huntington Memorial Hospital and Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association.

"I think we're called upon to be involved in the community, and I'm fortunate that I have some skills that I can share with these groups. I receive a good deal of satisfaction out of it," says Jenkins, who was born and raised in Pasadena and has been with the firm since 1985. "We spend a lot of time trying to figure out what our new lawyers' interests are and find ways that we might assist them in getting involved. It makes for very interesting lawyer meetings because everyone's got a different story to share."

Jenkins also finds time to occasionally get away from it all. He and his wife, Cindy, regularly serve as missionaries in Malawi, Africa, recently climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, and soon will head to the Galapagos Islands.

"We've been fortunate here at Hahn & Hahn; in addition to community, family is given a high priority, too," Jenkins says. "Don't get me wrong — we work hard and we provide very good legal services for our clients. I think we strike a pretty good live-work balance." 🏠

# DOSE OF CIVICS

Peter Lee '93 helps roll out California's new health insurance exchange

By Robin Heffler

**As the first executive director of Covered California, the state's new health insurance exchange, Peter Lee '93 is continuing a family tradition of having one foot in the world of medicine and the other in public policy and politics.**

His father, Peter Lee, MD, emeritus professor of medicine and founding chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, and his uncle, Philip Lee, both fought to establish Medicare for seniors in the 1960s. Earlier, Lee's grandfather, Russel, was a member of President Harry Truman's Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation. And, his mother, Sharon Girdner, was a civil rights and Democratic Party activist.

Today, Lee sees his role in running the exchange — which is charged with helping millions of Californians to obtain healthcare coverage through the federal Affordable Care Act — as “an opportunity to be at a truly historic moment, where we're setting in place the healthcare system for the next generation. It's a real privilege and challenge to be a part of that.”

He has held a number of other high-profile health policy positions as well.

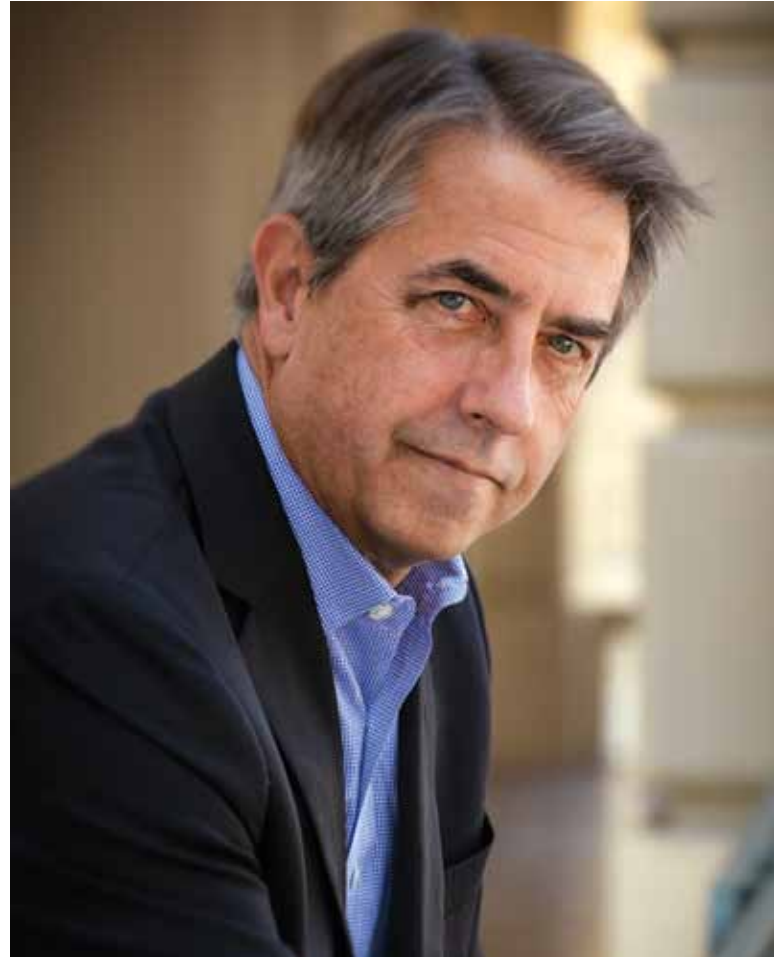
Most recently, Lee served as deputy director of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation in Washington, D.C., while earlier, he directed delivery service reform for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, developing a national strategy for healthcare quality.

Lee also was executive director of a coalition of private and public healthcare purchasers, held leadership roles with the Center for Health Care Rights and the National AIDS Network, and was a business litigator and contracts attorney with the Los Angeles firm of Tuttle and Taylor.

Health-policy work was always his long-term goal, and law a means to achieving it.

“I went to law school to learn a different skill set so I could use policy and other levers to improve healthcare for Californians and all Americans,” says Lee, who received a bachelor's degree from University of California, Berkeley, in political economies of industrial societies.

Lee was drawn to USC Gould's strength in health and health policy law, including the expertise of Prof. Alex Capron,



the Scott H. Bice Chair in Healthcare Law. He also appreciated “how much public interest was an integral part of the culture” at the school.

Now, Lee is applying his legal skills to grappling with “the dozens of moving parts, huge economic forces, and complexities,” of the healthcare exchange, and notes that the process has been easier in California than his time in Washington because the players have been willing to make it work.

He also keeps his father's and uncle's advice in mind.

“They tell me to remember that changing something as big as healthcare won't happen overnight,” he says. “It reminds me to keep perspective.” 📌

**Lawrence Eber “Bud” Drumm ’32** died on Feb. 12, 2013, at age 104. Until his passing, Drumm was the oldest living California lawyer and judge (inactive). A double Trojan, Drumm practiced civil and commercial law in downtown Los Angeles before being appointed to the California Municipal Court. He retired in 1978, but continued working as an arbitrator until age 95. Drumm was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Dorothy. He is survived by his daughters, Ann and Jean; two grandsons; and four great-grandchildren.

**Rosemary M. Dunbar ’42**, a civil rights activist and former L.A. County Superior Court judge, died Sept. 18, 2013. She was 93. After graduating from USC Gould, Dunbar enlisted and spent the next few years as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy. She held a variety of jobs and became an advocate for integration and racial justice. Dunbar was elected city attorney of Compton in 1967 before being appointed to the L.A. Municipal Court in 1968. She was promoted to the Superior Court in 1977. Dunbar is survived by her children; David, Donald, Daniel, Rosemary and Margaret; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Ardavast (Ardy) Vartanian Barton ’47** died on Oct. 6, 2013, at age 90. Born in Pawtucket, R.I., he came to Los Angeles at age 16 by hitchhiking across the country with his older brother. After graduating from John Marshall High School, Barton enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving in the Naval Air Corp. He went on to become a double Trojan and was admitted to the bar in 1948. He practiced law in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara for more than 50 years, and served as assistant city attorney in the early 1960s. He is survived by his brother, Byron, and sister, Gladys.

**Carl A. Earles ’48** died on May 18, 2013, at age 90. A native of Hemphill, Texas, Earles received a B.S. degree from Wiley College. He then enlisted in the United States Army, and served in Europe with the field artillery division during World War II. Afterward, Earles relocated to Los Angeles, where he studied law at USC Gould and Southwestern

School of Law under the G.I. Bill. He practiced law for more than 60 years, and was one of the first African Americans to serve as a delegate for the California State Bar Association. He also helped many students to attend Wiley College and other historically black colleges and universities.

**Edward Coin Cazier Jr., ’51** died on Feb. 27, 2013. He was 89. Following high school, Cazier enrolled in Naval ROTC, earned a B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and joined the U.S. Navy. After attending USC Gould, he was recalled to service during the Korean War. In 1954, he began a 40-year career with the firm of Martin, Hahn and Camusi, and later obtained a master’s degree in tax law from New York University. Cazier was a trustee of the Practicing Law Institute, and chair of the Governor’s Task Force for California Competitiveness. He is survived by three children: Edward Coin III, Matthew Edward Coin III, Matthew, and Clair; and five grandchildren.

**George Martin Dell ’53** died on June 14, 2013, at age 88. Born in Washington, D.C., Dell attended USC briefly before enlisting in the U.S. Army at age 18. He was appointed to the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, in 1944 and retired in 1950. At USC Gould, he was editor-in-chief of the Law Review, and a member of the Order of the Coif. Dell began practicing law in 1953, was selected as a Los Angeles Superior Court commissioner in 1961, appointed to the Municipal Court bench in 1963, and elevated to the Superior Court in 1966. He retired in 1985 and spent the rest of his legal career in private-dispute resolution. Dell is survived by his wife, Joy; daughters, Adrienne and Gloria; and four grandchildren.

**Julius Braginsky ’54** died on Sept. 1, 2013. He was 84. Braginsky is survived by sisters Shirly and Freda, as well as nieces and nephews.

**Kenneth Richard (Dick) Edsall ’56** died on Sept. 3, 2013, at age 86. A native of Des Moines, Iowa, Edsall served in the U.S. Army from 1944-46, and received a bachelor’s degree from Wichita University. At USC Gould, he was a member of the Law



Review and graduated Order of the Coif. During a career focused on utility law, he was vice president and general counsel of Pacific Lighting Corporation. Edsall is survived by his wife, Arlene; two children, Diane and Claudia; step-children Eric and Cydnie; and nine grandchildren.

**Dewey L. Falcone '56** died on Aug. 15, 2013. He was 82. Born and raised in Hermosa Beach, Calif., Falcone attended Menlo College and the University of Santa Clara before USC Gould. He served in the U.S. Army from 1956-59. He founded the firm of Falcone & Falcone with his father, primarily practicing family, real estate, and construction law for 34 years. He also served as ambassador to the Mariana Islands. In 1993, Falcone was appointed to a judgeship by then-Gov. Pete Wilson, and served for 20 years in the Norwalk Superior Court. He is survived by his wife, Teresa, and their four children: Darran, Felicia, Marisa, and Christina; his five grandchildren; and his sister, Delores.

**Jack D. Scott '57** died on Aug. 19, 2013, at the age of 87. Born and raised in Glendale, Calif., he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps after high school. His law career began in the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. Scott later worked as the assistant district attorney for Culver City, and ran a private Los Angeles law office for more than 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Angela; stepsons Edward and William; daughters Laurie and Sandra; and five grandchildren.

**Arthur K. Snyder '58** died Nov. 8, 2012. He was 79. A Los Angeles City Council member for nearly two decades, Snyder represented the eastside of the city, and later became a lobbyist and a restaurant owner. He was born in Los Angeles and attended Pepperdine University before USC Gould. He also served as a Marine during the Korean War. Snyder is survived by his wife, Delia; children: Neely, Miles, and Erin; and nine grandchildren.

**David Ager '60** died on May 5, 2013. He was 79.

**John F. Fossette '64** died Oct. 5, 2012, at age 73. A Santa Monica native, he was a legal officer while in the Navy. He worked for 25 years as legislative counsel for the state of California before retiring. Fossette is survived by his wife, Madlyn, and sister Janis.

**Richard E. Eldred '67** died on Oct. 18, 2013, at age 78. Eldred spent two years in the U.S. Army before attending Idaho State University and USC Gould. He worked for the Walt Disney Company's legal department and the Glendale District Attorney's office before entering private practice in the 1970s. He is survived by his children: John, Richard, Laura and Alyse; sister Shirley; and five grandchildren.

**James Theodore Gianulis '74** died Nov. 22, 2012. He was 66. Born and raised in San Diego, he served in the U.S. Army before enrolling in USC Gould, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif. He worked for Higgs, Fletcher & Mack, as well as Arthur Young & Company before founding Pacific Income Properties, a real estate syndication and development company. Gianulis also was of counsel to the law firms of Harrigan, Ruff, Ryder & Sbardellati, and Fleming PC. He is survived by his wife, Deborah; daughters Elena and Dena; and two grandchildren.

**Ruben E. Castillo '77** died on Feb. 19, 2013, at age 66. Born and raised in Los Angeles, he joined the U.S. Air Force at age 20 and served for four years, including two in Vietnam. He obtained an economics degree from the University of California, Irvine. Graduation from USC Gould was followed by a corporate law position with IBM and private practice. Castillo then spent 17 years in the Fresno County Counsel's office, and four years as county counsel for Merced County. He operated a private practice from 2006 until his retirement in 2010. Castillo is survived by his wife, Leslee Ann; four children: Courtney, Matt, Ryan, and Brad; and four grandchildren.

**Donna Lee Andrews '94** died on April 24, 2013, at age 52. She was the president of Lee Andrews Group, a Los Angeles-based public affairs and environmental consulting firm. Andrews earned her bachelor's in psychology and philosophy from Scripps College and her master's in public policy and politics from Claremont Graduate University. She served as the first campaign manager for U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer. Andrews is survived by family and friends.

**Aleksander S. Frimershtein '97**, died on Oct. 9, 2013. He was 42. A partner in the L.A. office of Nixon Peabody, he was an experienced tax attorney. Frimershtein took a personal interest in developing and mentoring young lawyers.

# 2014 COMMENCEMENT





**SAVE THE DATE**

**USC Gould Half Century Trojans Reunion**

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 23, 2014**



**If you graduated in 1963 or earlier, please plan to attend the law school's annual Half Century Trojans reunion lunch**

USC TOWN AND GOWN  
University Park Campus

10:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

Join Dean Robert K. Rasmussen for a law school update, a presentation by Prof. Susan Estrich, a special performance featuring USC musicians, and plenty of time to mingle with friends and fellow alumni.

*Interested in contacting classmates?*

*Contact Rakib Haque in the Office of Development and Graduate Relations at 213-821-3569 or [reunion@law.usc.edu](mailto:reunion@law.usc.edu) for more information.*

We are honored by the many alumni and friends who provide for the law school in their wills and estate plans. To demonstrate our gratitude, we proudly include these donors in the Trojan Legacy Circle. If you have made such a provision, or would like more information about planned gifts, please contact Ned Anthony at 213-821-3585 or [eanthony@law.usc.edu](mailto:eanthony@law.usc.edu).

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# calendar

## **TUESDAY, SEPT. 23**

Half Century Trojans Reunion Luncheon  
USC Town and Gown

## **THURSDAY, OCT. 9**

U.S. Supreme Court: A Preview  
USC Town and Gown

## **SATURDAY, OCT. 18**

USC Gould Alumni Association Tailgate  
USC Gould, Crocker Plaza

## **SATURDAY, OCT. 25**

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

## **FRIDAY, NOV. 21**

Trust and Estate Conference  
Millennium Biltmore Hotel, Downtown Los Angeles  
*(Continuing Legal Education program)*

## **WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3**

Institute for Corporate Counsel  
Private Club, Downtown L.A.  
*(Continuing Legal Education program)*

## **FRIDAY, DEC. 5**

Bar Admission Ceremony  
USC Town and Gown

## **SATURDAY, DEC. 13**

USC Gould Alumni Association Holiday Party  
Mr. C, Beverly Hills

## **MONDAY, JAN. 26-WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28**

Tax Institute  
The Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Downtown L.A.  
*(Continuing Legal Education program)*

**ON THE COVER:** Special thanks to Prof. Ron and Susan Garet, and Allison Aguirre '16, Sami Alsado '16, Adrian Amaya-Ontiveros '16, Elliott Bluffer '16, Alexandria Chu '16, Cody DeCamp '16, Emily Grimm '16, Victoria Gu '16, Brandon Hamburg '16, Jeffrey Ho '16, Pei-Shan Hsieh '16, Alexander Hurd '16, Jonathan Levinson '16, Andrew McCraven '16, Jordan Smith '16, Luna Stevenson '16, Christopher West '16, Daixi Xu '16, and Ye Zhu '14. **COVER PHOTO BY MIKEL HEALEY**