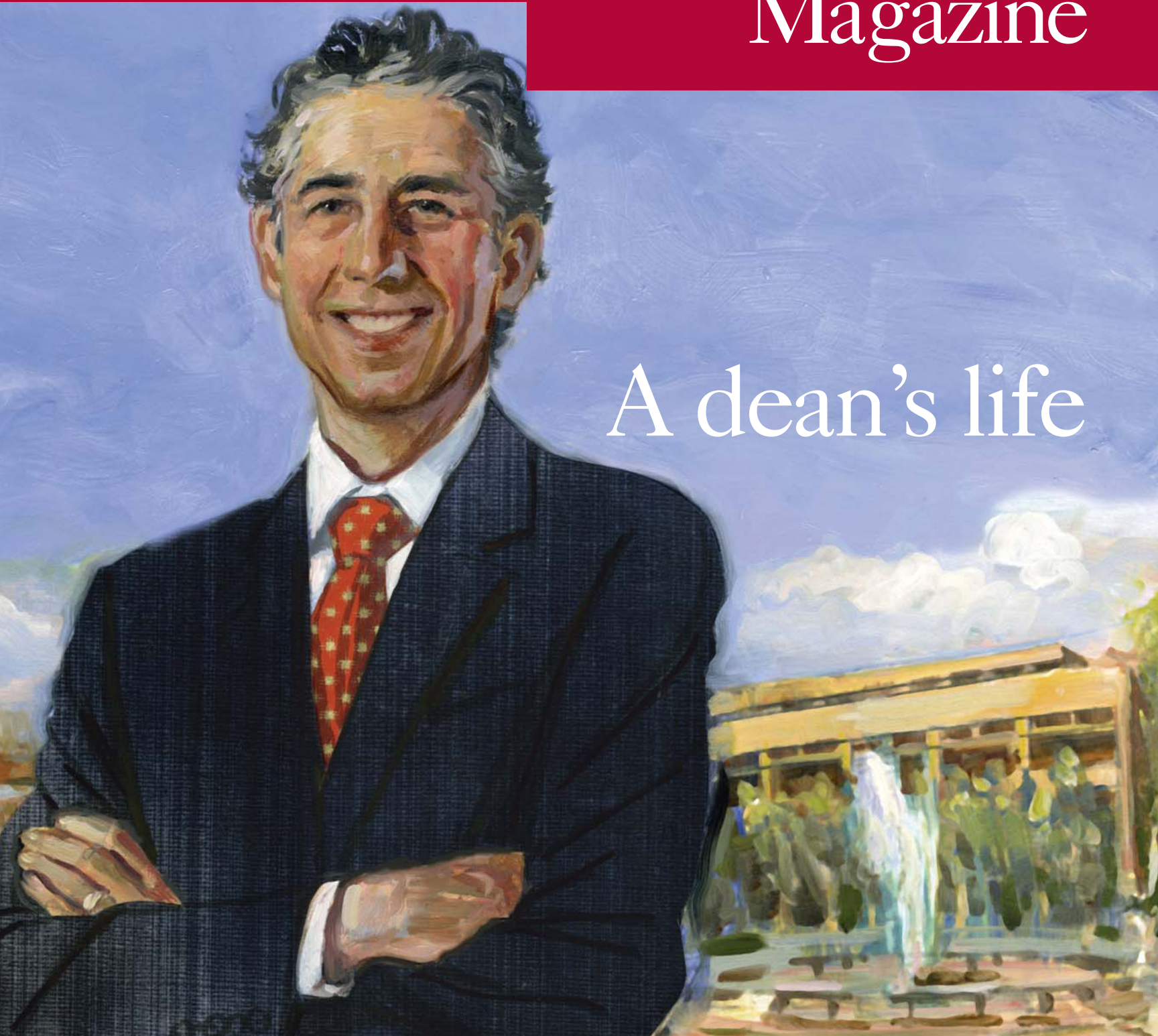


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SPRING 2008

USC | LAW Magazine



A dean's life

SPRING 2008

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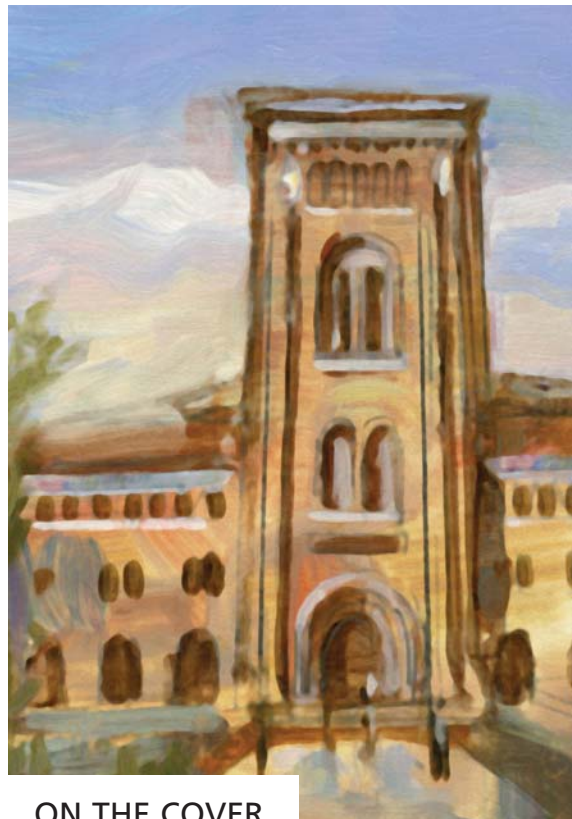
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Time-honored

Great law schools have great traditions. I have spent my first semester as dean talking with many of you about our traditions and how we can best carry them into the future while adapting them to the opportunities we have today.

The level of support and enthusiasm that you share for our law school energizes me on a daily basis. With your help and encouragement, we are in the process of launching a number of new initiatives that will draw on the characteristics that define USC. I hope to share these developments with you in person and in these pages as they unfold.

One tradition many alumni and friends raise with me is USC Law's history of hiring outstanding scholars to teach our students. A number of the current leaders in the legal academy have been part of our school. Many have remained on the faculty, enriching the lives of generations of students; some have joined other elite law schools. One would be hard-pressed to find a law school that has hired as well as we have over the past four decades.

It is a pleasure to report that we continue to maintain and enhance this tradition, as we welcomed three new colleagues to the faculty this academic year. At the senior level, we hired Mat McCubbins — an appointment truly worthy of note. Mat is a superstar. He has written six books, edited eight others and published scores of articles across a variety of areas. Trained in political science, Mat has written pathbreaking work on many subjects, including statutory interpretation. Mat, along with my colleague Beth Garrett, directs our Center for the Study of Law and Politics. He makes our outstanding faculty even better.

Kim Buchanan, who teaches Constitutional Law and Prisoners' Rights, and Camille Gear Rich, who teaches Anti-Discrimination Law and Legal Profession, joined the faculty as new assistant professors. Both already have written important work — Kim on prisoners' rights and Camille on Title VII. I have no doubt that their excitement and passion for their scholarship will inspire students for years to come.

As proud as I am of our new colleagues, we are by no means satisfied. We continue to aggressively seek out the most innovative scholars and teachers to join USC Law. We plan on increasing the size of our faculty over the coming years, to ensure that we continue to provide the best legal education to our students. Our tradition demands no less.

Robert K. Rasmussen
Dean and Carl Mason Franklin Chair in Law

Study abroad programs stretch from London to Hong Kong



Thomas Rooks

Globetrotting

From left: Alisa Valderrama, Thy Bui and Rosina Hernandez were among the first to complete the USC/LSE dual-degree program.

Third-year student Thomas Rooks began eyeing USC Law's study abroad programs when he first came across the school's admissions materials. Now he is spending his final semester of law school at the University of Hong Kong (HKU).

"It was one of the reasons I came to USC," says Rooks, a native of Morris, Ill. "Studying abroad has broadened my law school experience, giving me the opportunities to travel and learn a new language."

Rooks is participating in an exchange program that allows USC students to earn upper-division credits toward their J.D. during one semester in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, HKU students in the program, like Gladys Moon, attend USC Law to earn credits toward their LL.B.

Moon says academic life at USC Law is challenging — in a good way.

"In Hong Kong, students are more passive: We sit and listen," says Moon, who will return to HKU this summer and plans to become a corporate lawyer after receiving her LL.B. in 2009. "Students here are very proactive: They ask questions, they challenge the professors. They're not afraid to raise their hands and speak their opinions."

USC Law also offers a dual-degree program with the London School of Economics (LSE), in which students spend two years at USC and one year at LSE for a J.D./LL.M. degree. LSE students complete two years in London and another two in Los Angeles to earn an LL.B./J.D. degree.

The first four USC students to participate in the LSE dual-degree program, including Alisa Valderrama '07, completed their studies last fall. Valderrama says the program was attractive because London and LSE draw people working in social justice, international affairs and finance.

"On a given day, I'd have my class on international economic law, work on a human rights case at Amnesty International's headquarters, and work with colleagues on a securities law research project for the British treasury," says Valderrama, who often found herself the only American in classes full of international students.

"I was so thankful for my USC Law education while at LSE because both in and out of class, I found myself frequently being asked to explain some aspect of American law to an audience of foreign lawyers, and it felt great to field those questions in a coherent way."

According to Professor Edwin Smith, faculty advisor to USC Law's Graduate and International Programs, the school's study abroad offerings are especially unique because of USC's partnerships (LSE is recognized globally, and HKU resides in the international trade center of the world's most populous country) and location (in Los Angeles, 24 percent of the economy is tied to international trade).

"Students who participate in the programs come to understand they can operate in an entirely different culture," Smith says.

More information about USC Law's J.D. study abroad programs is available at <http://lawgip.usc.edu/>.

— Lori Craig

Associate dean bids farewell to USC Law



From left: Berry Locke '53, his wife, Diana, and Tom Tomlinson at USC Law Reunion 2003

A history of his own

In an office stuffed with 27 years worth of books, photographs and ephemera from a life at USC, John G. “Tom” Tomlinson smiles when he says, “I wasn’t looking for a job. I had a swell job.”

Indeed, Tomlinson’s work at the university — with the last 12 years at USC Law — is rich with relationships, stories and memorabilia. Tomlinson, associate dean and historian of USC Law, has translated these into significant funds supporting students and faculty. His outstanding success here brought Occidental College — an established and respected undergraduate institution in Los Angeles — calling with an offer too exciting and challenging to turn down: vice president of Occidental, overseeing development and alumni efforts. He begins his new venture in March.

It is Tomlinson’s unique marriage of fund-raiser and law school historian that mark his tenure. While on a Fulbright Scholarship researching his dissertation on Austrian intellectual history in the early 1970s, Tomlinson became intrigued with how different cultures support their “culture-making and culture-preserving” institutions.

“In Europe, the state or the nation’s ruling class creates many of the museums, schools and other cultural institutions,” he says. “But in America, we have volunteers. Americans volunteer and support everything and anything, and I became fascinated with this.”

Tomlinson parlayed this interest into a career in philanthropy; his love of history was the special incentive former USC Law Dean Scott Bice ’68 saw to lure him from the university in 1995. Tomlinson began researching and chronicling the school’s 100-plus-year history. He has visited families of deceased alumni in search of diplomas, yearbooks, diaries and records from the early 20th century and even sifted through an empty oil can used as a trash bin to locate pre-1905 law school materials.

The resulting essays chronicle the school’s pivotal moments and notable alumni; many were printed in *USC Law Magazine*. Tomlinson’s research underscores the reasons why USC Law is distinctive: Two women were founding members of the school, and greater numbers of women were counted as students and faculty in the early 20th century than at many older East Coast schools; diversity was a tenet of the law school from its beginning, as evidenced by photographs; and an exceptional faculty was recognized as necessary to maintain the school’s quality.

These histories have led to relationships and friendships with graduates from as far back as the 1930s and from whom Tomlinson has encouraged donations to their alma mater. Understanding the philosophy and social science of “giving” has sustained and enriched Tomlinson.

“I like the process of people taking me with them through the journey of themselves,” he says. “As they reflect on what is important to them, I get to be the steward of that process. At some point, they see themselves in some aspect of a relationship with the law school and in making a gift of a significant sum. Their treasures follow their heart. It is a hugely gratifying experience.”

Tomlinson’s heart will always hold USC dear. And, his relationship with the law school will continue; he has three additional essays to complete, after which the series will be collected in a book titled *A Law School of Permanent Quality*.

“Tom gets this place at a deep level and has worked tirelessly on its behalf,” says Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. “He has poured his heart and soul into our community, and we are the richer for it.”

The historian has become part of USC Law’s fabled history.

— Maria Iacobo

Western Center on Law & Poverty celebrates 40th anniversary at USC

No place like home

What began as the brainchild of USC Vice Provost Marty Levine is now California's oldest and largest legal services support center. Last fall, the Western Center for Law & Poverty — established in 1967 as a USC Law program — returned to its roots at USC to commemorate 40 years of providing a legal voice for the underserved and working statewide for systematic change.

"We wanted an absolutely first-class law office that would seek law reform, support local legal services programs, and also represent organizations of the poor," says Levine, who wrote the proposal to establish WCLP and served as the center's original executive director and its first president.

WCLP first opened its doors in the old law school building, when Judge Dorothy W. Nelson '56 was dean of USC Law. Featuring a board that included representatives from UCLA and Loyola law schools, the State Bar of California, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, community organizations and neighborhood legal services providers, the center eventually outgrew its USC home and became an independent agency.

Former USC Law professors Derrick Bell (who was WCLP's executive director after Levine), Gary Bellow and Justice Earl Johnson were instrumental in the center's early success. Pegine Grayson '87 served as the executive director from 2001 to 2006. USC Law professors Michael H. Shapiro and Clare Pastore are former staff attorneys, as were several alumni, including Judge Abby Soven '68, Phil Goar '67 and the late Justice Paul Boland '66.

Today, Dick Rothschild '75 is director of litigation for WCLP, where he has spent the past 30 years working on landmark impact lawsuits related to affordable housing and access to health care and public assistance. Jen Flory '05, who began her WCLP tenure as a USC Law student, is a staff attorney focusing on indigent health and medical debt issues.

"You never forget when you see a Western Center lawyer," says Joni Halpern, WCLP board member and the director of



Supportive Parents Information Network, Inc. "That person had a good education, that person could have been anybody's lawyer. That person could have worked anywhere, but he or she chose to work for the poor."

Generations of USC Law students also have developed their advocacy skills through clerkships at the center, including Greenberg Glusker litigator Michael Greene '70, who in 1968 became WCLP's first summer clerk. He currently serves on the center's board of directors, along with Steven Atlee '90, Jeffrey Richardson '93, Michael Turrill '96 and David Walsh '85.

In 1972, recognizing that courtroom victories could be undone by the state, the center branched out to Sacramento, opening one of the first legislative offices in the country dedicated exclusively to representing the needs of low-income people.

Among its many success stories, WCLP filed — and won — *Serrano v. Priest*, holding that the quality of a student's education should not depend on his or her school district's property wealth. The case fostered widespread changes in school financing systems across the country.

WCLP also succeeded in securing the largest class action settlement to date on behalf of indigent individuals in U.S. history, totaling \$59 million and resulting in excess rent refunds to more than 150,000 tenants in housing projects.

The center's cases today continue to involve a variety of issues, including mental health services for foster children and displacement of low-income people due to condo conversions.

"Forty years later, the need for the Western Center is as great as ever," says WCLP executive director Syd Whalley. "We have stayed true to the founders' vision of a regional center to address the problems encountered by poor people and their legal advocates."

— Rizza Barnes

New clinic provides legal advice to local entrepreneurs



Michael Chasalow (bottom right) with students

When Jane Yuan decided to launch a shoe import business, she didn't know where to begin. Incorporation, business registration and selecting a business structure were as foreign as the shoes she planned to sell.

Yuan turned to the new USC Small Business Clinic for help. Staffed by law students under the direction of Professor Michael Chasalow, the clinic is designed to advise entrepreneurs, like Yuan, on issues ranging from contracts and general business agreements to trademarks or unforeseen legal problems.

And all for free.

"I went on a very interesting journey," Yuan says. "I knew I wanted to start this business, but I had no idea how to incorporate or go through all the legal hoops required to make this real."

After learning the ins and outs of launching her enterprise, however, Yuan said a streak of bad luck made it impossible to continue her venture. But she continues to seek help from the clinic.

"My importer is moving to another country, and I just can't take the risk of moving forward," Yuan says. "The economy hasn't helped, either. Now I need to find out from the Small Business Clinic what I need to do to shut down the business as far as taxes, my incorporation and my legal obligations.

"When I'm ready to start another venture, I'll definitely be calling the clinic for help. They offer an incredible service for entrepreneurs."

Michael Chasalow, a business law professor and consultant to a variety of start-up companies, said the clinic is designed to provide

Open for business

second and third-year law students with real-life experience while helping business owners ward off future problems and lawsuits.

"The goal is to prepare law students for the business world," said Chasalow, who has taught at USC Law for nearly a decade. "Working at this clinic will give future transactional lawyers a leg up. The Small Business Clinic is a safe place for students to hone their skills.

"When you get your first assignments in a law firm and you don't know what you're doing, it can be overwhelming. You don't want to confess your ignorance. This is a place where you can ask questions and get training without fear, so when you go out into the real world, you have had some very valuable practical experience."

In addition to Yuan, Chasalow and his students are helping local entrepreneurs with businesses that offer a variety of services, from tutoring to home theater installation.

Rio Saken, who runs a sports summer day camp in Los Angeles, recently turned to the Small Business Clinic for advice in opening another camp. Because he wanted to keep the two camps as separate entities, he asked the clinic to help him incorporate his new venture.

"It was really easy working with the law students," Saken says. "They kept me in the loop, and it was a great process."

Four law students worked in the clinic last fall, and eight students are working this spring.

The Small Business Clinic is one of seven clinical programs at USC Law that combine classroom exercises with client representation. Others focus on intellectual property, post-conviction justice, children's legal issues, employment law for nonprofits, mediation and immigration.

For more information on the Small Business Clinic and other USC Law clinical programs, visit <http://lawweb.usc.edu/academics/clinical.cfm>.



Client Rio Saken with day camp attendees and personnel



Left: Kareem Crayton

Virtuous reality

USC develops online redistricting game

Online gamers won't find avatars, blade-slinging warriors or pretend poker chips in "The Redistricting Game." But players who accept the game's challenge will confront a political reality that is as complex and nearly as fantastical as are most virtual worlds.

A joint effort of the USC School of Cinematic Arts, the USC Annenberg School for Communication and USC Gould School of Law, The Redistricting Game challenges users to draw new electoral maps while heeding challenges from citizen groups, courts and party bosses. The free online game illuminates how politicians can use redistricting to essentially choose their voters.

According to USC Law Professor Kareem Crayton, the idea for the game came after California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's failed 2005 redistricting proposition, which would have put retired judges in charge of the redistricting that occurs every decade, after each federal census.

"The idea was to get the average person to use the Internet in a way that would improve civic life," says Crayton, a political science expert who collaborated with the game's designers. "We figured if we could get this educational effort underway now, by the time the next census comes around, people will be better informed of the process and can push for reform."

Thanks to the game, anyone with an Internet connection can begin to understand why electoral maps look like so much geometric anarchy.

"The game illustrates the problems that politicians run into when trying to draw fair electoral boundaries," says Crayton. "Although we all agree that the current redistricting process doesn't work, there is no one perfect fix to the system."

By the 2010 census, USC hopes to package the game with actual congressional maps so that any citizen can draw up his or her own map and present it to legislators for consideration, says Crayton.

Visit www.redistrictinggame.com to play the game.

— Darren Schenck

Students travel to Chile for IP project

Compare & contrast



From left: Luis Villarroel, Jace Levine and Matthew Slater

Officials from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Chile have turned to the USC Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic for help with a survey and analysis of copyright limitations and exceptions.

The ministry is leading an initiative sponsored by Chile in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to conduct a survey of copyright limitations and exceptions in the laws of the group's 21 member economies.

Jack Lerner, visiting clinical assistant professor of law and the IP Clinic's acting director, traveled with third-year students Jace Levine and Matthew Slater to Santiago, Chile, in October to meet with Luis Villarroel, intellectual property advisor in the ministry. Levine and Slater are helping to produce a report on the survey findings for APEC's Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group.

"The report will provide a broad comparison of the U.S. and other APEC members," Slater says. "It will enable APEC and policymakers in member economies to compare practices and to see what limitations and exceptions look like in other systems."

The report also is intended to serve as a starting point for additional study.

"This can be a huge stepping stone toward helping people in developing countries," Levine says. "As technology gets cheaper, it becomes possible for more people to gain access to information and educational resources. Studying, understanding and comparing the copyright laws across systems are critical parts in the process of figuring out how people in developing countries can take advantage of new technologies."

— Lori Craig



FRESH FACES

USC Law welcomed the Class of 2010 last August, along with transfer and exchange students and a class of 87 international students.

The 196 first-year J.D. candidates, selected from a pool of nearly 5,500 applicants, had a median LSAT score of 166. They create a diverse group: About half are women, and more than 42 percent identify themselves as members of an ethnic minority. They also hail from different professional backgrounds, having worked as teachers, engineers, athletic coaches and financial consultants before applying to law school.

Students admitted to the Graduate and International Programs hail from 16 different countries and have had successful careers in law, business and government.

Marc Berman, president of the Student Bar Association, greeted the new students during orientation. "Law school will be one of the most challenging experiences of your life," he said, "but as part of our community, it will also be one of the most memorable and rewarding."

Serving the community

More than 60 USC Law students painted, trimmed trees and cleaned up at the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens as part of the Class of 2010 Orientation Community Service Project held last fall.

The students' efforts focused on River Garden Park, one of the few green spaces in the area. The volunteers saved the center about four weeks' worth of maintenance work, according to center staff.

The project was sponsored by the USC Law Community Service Affairs Committee, which organizes activities designed to help students get to know one another while providing assistance to communities surrounding the university.



CHASING JUSTICE



Kerry Max Cook, a man who spent two decades on Texas' death row before being exonerated, spoke at USC Law during Trojan Family weekend last fall.

Cook was convicted in 1977 for the rape and murder of a 21-year-old woman, Cook's neighbor at the time. The state's case centered on one of Cook's fingerprints and a jailhouse confession that Cook's cellmate later admitted to fabricating in exchange for leniency.

Cook began studying law books by moonlight in his cell, told his story to a local newspaper, and found an attorney who fought for a new trial.

"I felt like I had to do absolutely everything I could do so I could die okay," Cook said.

Following two retrials, prosecutors accepted a no-contest plea, and Cook was released.

"Forgiveness gave me the power to be free," Cook told the audience. "Death row may have had my body, but it never had my mind. As I stand before you, I consider myself the luckiest man alive."

TWO GIFTS RECENTLY

were presented to USC Law Dean Robert K. Rasmussen for The Justice Richard Amerian Memorial Scholarship Endowment. Michael Amerian '99, Los Angeles deputy city attorney and son of the late Richard Amerian '62, presented a \$10,000 check from The George Ignatius Foundation, and attorney Vartkes Yeghiayan presented a check for \$18,000 from the New York Life Settlement Fund.

Pictured above, from left, are Walter Karabian '63, a steadfast USC Law supporter who is responsible for \$1.7 million in gifts to the school, Yeghiayan, Rasmussen and Amerian. The Amerian Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a USC Law student. First-year student Jon Khoshafian is the 2007-08 scholarship recipient.

A LOOK AT FREEDOM

Historian Eric Foner discussed “The Idea of Freedom in American History,



1776-2007” at USC’s sixth annual Law and Humanities Distinguished Lecture held in November.

The definition of freedom — as well as the way “freedom” is defined in the United States — is constantly changing, said Foner, the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University.

“The history of freedom is a tale of debates and disagreements and conflicts and controversies,” Foner said. “And the meaning of freedom has been fought out, battled over, at every level of society: from Supreme Court decisions and Congressional debates down to slave plantations, labor picket lines, and even in people’s parlors and bedrooms.”



STUDENT WINS EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS CASE

Second-year student Warren Williams gained unusual hearing experience and achieved an outstanding victory for a Bet Tzedek client while clerking for the organization last summer.

Williams won \$67,564.04 in back pay and penalties for a client named Maria, who had worked for a residential care facility in Arcadia, Calif. Working shifts that lasted from Friday afternoon through Monday morning, Maria provided medical care and performed some housekeeping at the facility. She was paid as little as \$150 per shift.

Williams prepared a brief for the California labor commissioner, prepared his client for the daylong hearing, and even questioned the client on direct testimony.

“I was thrilled for Maria,” Williams said. “I wasn’t completely surprised that her case was successful, but I didn’t expect the hearing officer to award Maria the full amount we requested. Plus, it was the first decision I received for any case that I had worked on with Bet Tzedek, so it was great news.”



In praise of Patrick Henry

The Honorable Michael W. McConnell, U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals judge, presented the 2007 Justice Lester W. Roth Lecture at USC Law.

McConnell examined the legacy of revolutionary Patrick Henry, who vigorously opposed ratifying the Constitution yet was gracious in defeat.

“Patrick Henry established the first precedent in the U.S. Constitution,” McConnell said. “He established that in this American republic, our political opposition may be vigorous, it is impassioned, but it is conducted in the proper place.”

Henry was a man who foresaw and feared a militaristic America, McConnell said, with a too-powerful executive, too few civil liberties, excessively high taxes, weak states and a federal judiciary with too much clout. Henry also thought the right to bear arms was the most important liberty to protect.

“You will recognize many of the anxieties of 2007 in Henry’s speeches of 1788,” McConnell said.



NEW BAR MEMBERS

Friends and family joined recent USC Law graduates as they were sworn into the state and federal bars in a December 2007 ceremony.

Alumni judges John Segal '87 and Alicemarie Stotler '67 offered their insight to the new attorneys before admitting them to practice in the state and federal courts.

“You are now prepared, thanks to your excellent legal education at USC and your bar membership, to take on all challenges and consider all opportunities,” said Stotler, U.S. District Court judge. “I hope you embark on your professional journey with a sense of pride in your chosen vocation.”

Segal, a California Superior Court judge who teaches Remedies at USC Law, said practicing law is about helping people achieve their goals.

“People need your wisdom, your guidance and your practical advice,” he said.

A snapshot of a typical day
in the life of Robert K. Rasmussen

A dean's life

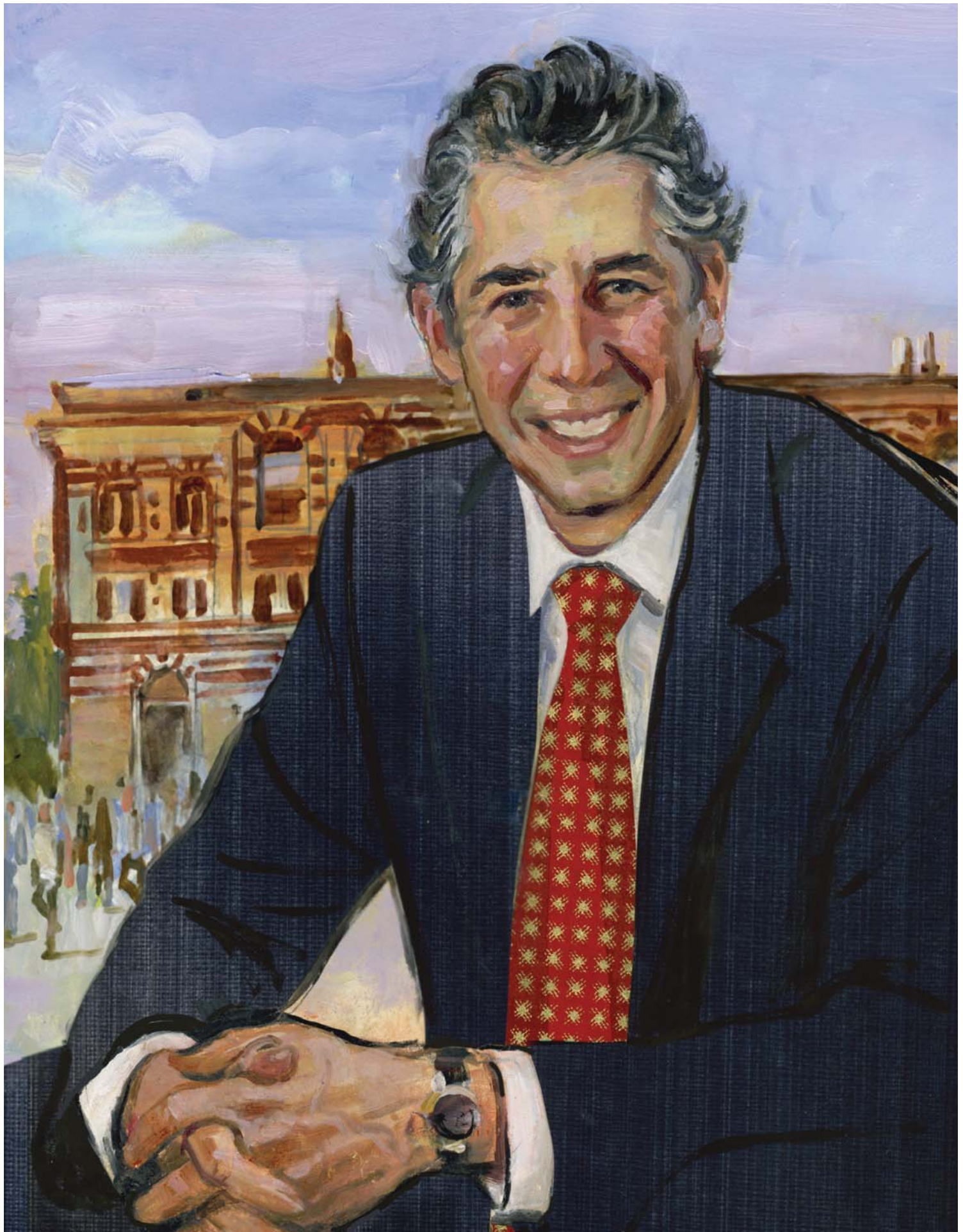
By Maria Iacobo

For the first time in 18 years, Robert K. Rasmussen did not spend the autumn months in a classroom teaching law — but he is still striding across a campus. After nearly two decades as a celebrated professor and administrator at Vanderbilt University Law School, Rasmussen has returned to his native Los Angeles to serve as dean of the USC Gould School of Law.

There is no playbook to guide one in taking the reins of a nationally recognized law school, and Rasmussen is USC Law's first dean to come from "the outside" since 1930. Much of his first year includes establishing relationships with faculty, staff, university administration, students, alumni and friends of the law school.

Rasmussen's excitement and energy for this tremendous professional challenge is apparent from the moment you meet him. He is warm, self-effacing and eager to talk about his move to Los Angeles and USC Law.

Weekdays and weekends have him constantly moving. No two days are alike. **Here is one day in the life of the new dean.**



9:00 a.m.**Weekly meeting with vice and associate deans**

On this particular Monday, Rasmussen already has run through his role for the annual bar ceremony (to take place that afternoon) when he meets with Vice Dean Scott Altman and Associate Dean Greg Keating to review the week's schedule and discuss strategy for key events.

"The tenor of these meetings will shift over time," says Altman. "Right now, Greg and I can provide some history and knowledge of people and circumstances that may not be apparent to someone new to USC Law. We can also be a sounding board for him to share ideas and opinions."

The standing meeting is important to Rasmussen as well.

"Our goal is to provide a first-class experience for our students, our faculty and alums," he says. "We want to examine all that we do to make sure we're doing it at the level of the quality that we expect and that people expect of us."

Today, they consider the pending university-wide academic program review; topics include the law school's strategic plans, how the law school identifies and hires minority candidates, and the faculty's productivity and visibility.

Another topic for discussion is faculty workshops. USC has leading scholars in a number of fields, and the law school wants to make sure they share their scholarship with schools across the country.

Brought to his attention are student requests for additional funds for their USC Law-sponsored New Orleans trip to do volunteer work for hurricane victims (it's decided the administration will match up to \$5K more) and commencement speaker recommendations from students (Erwin Chemerinsky, former longtime USC Law faculty member and inaugural dean of the new law school at the University of California, Irvine, will deliver this year's keynote address).

With the few minutes available before his 10 a.m. meeting, Rasmussen returns phone calls and responds to e-mails.

10:00 a.m.**Weekly meeting with development deans**

Associate Dean and Acting Chief Development Officer Brad Calhoun and Associate Dean John "Tom" Tomlinson arrive with a large binder that summarizes how the law school's reunions are organized as well as strategies for improvement. Rasmussen needs to review the report and, over the next few months, determine his role at Reunion 2008.

"The style, the personal touch you bring to this event is important," says Calhoun. "And, it has to be true to you."

Underscoring the important role alumni play in his strategic planning, Rasmussen has engaged meetings with many graduates who have supported the law school with their time, energy and resources.

Alumni connect with the law school in different ways, he says, and he wants to learn what makes USC Law special for them.

"For some, it's the student experience and hanging out with their colleagues. For others, it's the interchange in class and opening

their minds to something new. For many, it is being part of the USC network," Rasmussen says. "It's a joy to listen to alums and hear their passion for the school."

"We're able to provide the quality of education that we do, in large part, because of people who have given back to the law school. While our current students are contributing time, money and effort to their education and they deserve everything they're getting, it's good to remind them that even with all the things they're contributing, we could not run this building but for the contributions of people who have come before."

11:40 a.m.**Faculty workshop**

The Center in Law, Economics and Organization is hosting a visiting professor from Northwestern University School of Law. The workshop — attended by faculty from across the university — provides an audience for the author's work-in-progress (a paper titled "Optimal Property Rights in Financial Contracting").

Engaging in discussion over lunch, the group teases out the nuances of the author's argument, asking questions and pointing out discrepancies.

"I like to go to every workshop if I'm available," says Rasmussen. "The exchange of ideas is one of the true pleasures of being a law professor."

1:00 p.m.**Meeting with individual faculty**

One of Rasmussen's objectives has been to meet individually with all faculty by the end of his first semester. He wants to hear their aspirations for the law school and let them know he is available and accessible to them.

"I want to understand how they perceive their career and learn if there is anything I can do to assist them with their scholarship or their teaching," he says.

Rasmussen's love of teaching is reflected in his strong interest in faculty needs as well as his legacy as Vanderbilt's most honored law professor, having received its outstanding teaching award six times.

"It's odd not teaching this year, but I worried that if I tried to teach I wouldn't do the kind of job the students in the class deserve because I'm trying to get up to speed being dean. And, you want to make sure that when you step in the classroom you're fully prepared, so that students get the quality product they deserve."

Though he isn't teaching this year, Rasmussen finds time to spend with students either casually on campus or through forums held for each class year.

"They're going to be USC Law alums for their entire careers. The mental habits they develop here will serve them well in all aspects of their life inside and outside of the law. The skills they build here will last a lifetime and pay off in tangible and intangible ways throughout their lives."



2:00 p.m.

Meeting with USC undergrad

A USC senior has requested a meeting with Rasmussen to discuss Vanderbilt's law school. She outlines the classes and reasons that have led her to focus on a career in law. Missing her family on the East Coast, she has researched Vanderbilt and decided it is her first choice. Rasmussen draws a diagram of the Vanderbilt campus and enthusiastically discusses the faculty, campus life and downtown Nashville.

"There are a lot of attributes of Vanderbilt that remind me of USC, especially the size and collegiality," he says. "I've received a number of e-mails from my former students [who now work in Los Angeles], and we've been able to meet for lunch. That's one of the advantages you have at a law school that prizes engagement with students."

At the close of their meeting he leaves her with an upbeat, "You'll do great," and offers to send an e-mail to Vanderbilt's dean of admissions. "The football [at Vanderbilt] is a bit of a comedown," he cautions, adding that this academic year marks the first time he has been affiliated with a highly successful football program.

Afterward he says, "She did her homework. She tried to figure out which school is a good fit for her. When students consider law school, I think they should first identify some general qualities. But once you get into a certain range of law schools there are other factors, such as quality of life and where you're going to practice, which play an important role."

"She wasn't just looking at rankings. Her approach was: 'Of the top law schools, which is the best fit for me?'"

4:00 p.m.

Bar Admission Ceremony

USC Law graduates who passed the July 2007 California bar exam are invited back to campus and sworn into the state and federal bar by judges. It is a USC tradition but new to Rasmussen. In

2007, USC Law graduates achieved an 89 percent pass rate — its highest in several years.

"You have now successfully sat through an examination of three days that tests not only your knowledge and understanding of the law, but also your self-discipline and motivation in order to become attorneys," he says, addressing the group before Judge John Segal '87 and Judge Alicemarie Stotler '67 admitted them to practice. "This ceremony commemorates the time and effort you put in and commemorates the effort, support and love you've received from your family and friends in order to get you here today."

Rasmussen himself passed the California bar in 1986 before moving to Washington, D.C., to start his career.

"It's probably the most difficult bar exam in the country, so it really is an accomplishment to pass," he says. "And, to share the celebration with the graduates is an honor. Seeing the look of accomplishment on their faces and the pride in the faces of their loved ones was such a great feeling."

Afterward, Rasmussen greets and congratulates the graduates and their guests, staying until the last new lawyer has left the building. Before leaving for his final appointment (a dinner meeting with Professor Gillian Hadfield and the faculty workshop speaker), he thanks the staff that staged the event.

It is a gesture compatible with a man who recognizes the unique job he has earned and the qualities — and people — that make his new home special.

"We have a tremendous staff here," he says. "For so many people, their impressions of USC Law are formed by their interaction with our staff members. I want staff to know I appreciate what they do and understand the important role they play."

The reception over, Rasmussen strides across the campus to his next engagement. Though his day began 10 hours earlier, he shows no signs of fatigue; rather, he looks like a new lawyer still in discovery mode.

In her memoir, Professor Elyn Saks brings to life the terrifying and disorienting world of schizophrenia

LAW AND disorder

By Melinda Myers Vaughn

Picture this woman: An accomplished professor at one of the nation's best law schools, she's a highly respected expert in the field of mental health law with faculty appointments at two top medical schools and a psychology program. She is happily married, with a wide circle of friends and colleagues who admire her.

Now picture *this* woman: She's alone, lying on a hospital bed, arms and legs in restraints. She is struggling, fruitlessly, to free herself. She's talking about creatures in the sky that want to kill her, creatures on the ground that are attacking her. She sings, she cries, she shouts. Passersby stare at her from a safe distance as she thrashes and wails.

Both pictures offer starkly different perspectives of the same woman: Elyn Saks, associate dean and the Orrin B. Evans Professor of Law, Psychology, and Psychiatry and the Behavioral Sciences at the USC Gould School of Law. She is among the university's most accomplished faculty members, internationally respected for her scholarship.

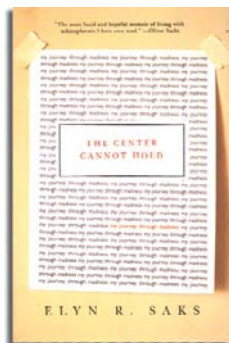
And she has schizophrenia.

Right: Elyn Saks in the law library (above) and photos from Saks' family album





A graduate of Yale Law School and Oxford University, Saks studies and researches mental health law. She is a member of the American Law Institute, an elite group of lawyers and judges. She holds joint appointments in psychiatry at the Keck School of Medicine of USC's Institute of Psychiatry, Law and the Behavioral Sciences and the University of California, San Diego.



Since joining the law faculty at USC in 1989, she has published three books and dozens of scholarly articles in the nation's most respected journals of law as well as medicine, psychology and psychiatry. Her work has helped change laws governing the use of restraints in hospitals and forced many to rethink preconceptions about how people with mental illnesses are treated, both within the legal system and outside it.

But her latest book, *The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey Through Madness* (Hyperion 2007), could be her most influential: It is a personal account of her remarkable life and continuing struggle with schizophrenia. Written for a general audience, the book — included in *Time Magazine's* Top 10 Nonfiction Books of 2007 — “is the most lucid and hopeful memoir of living with schizophrenia I have ever read,” according to renowned neurologist Oliver Saks. It offers a startlingly honest account of a woman who has simultaneously struggled against the fiercest of mental illnesses and achieved a level of success that few imagined possible.

“I wanted to write this book to give hope to people who suffer from schizophrenia and to give understanding to those who don't,” she says. “I hope this story will help implode the myths that surround mental illness. And, honestly, it will be nice to not have this secret anymore.”

UPHILL BATTLE

Schizophrenia affects approximately 1 percent of the world's population, or more than 3 million Americans. A disorder of the brain, the illness causes psychotic episodes of varying duration and severity.

Schizophrenia wasn't a term that 8-year-old Elyn Saks would have been familiar with; even if she had, she couldn't possibly have imagined that the “little quirks” she was developing — lining up her shoes in her closet before leaving her room, a compulsion to align the books on her shelves “just so” before turning off her bedroom light at night — were a prelude to the devastating prognosis she would receive in her mid-20s.

Throughout her teens, Saks expertly hid numerous symptoms: difficulty forming thoughts, hallucinations and periods of extreme paranoia. She also suffered from anorexia and flirted with drugs; when she confessed trying marijuana to her parents, they checked her into an outpatient drug treatment program where she would spend many of her afternoons and weekends throughout high school. “The Center,” as she called it, instilled in her a distrust of drugs that later resulted in reluctance to take life-saving medication for her illness.

“What my experience at the Center primarily did,” she writes,

“was drill into me an unflinching attitude toward illness or weakness: *Fight it*. You can fight it, and you can win. To be weak is to fail; to let your guard down is to surrender.”

Despite brief periods when her illness broke through her carefully crafted shell, Saks was a successful student. At Vanderbilt University, she earned straight A's, graduated first in her class and received the university's prestigious Founder's Medal. She capped her undergraduate experience by accepting a Marshall Scholarship to study philosophy at Oxford University.

The move to England, however, was nothing short of traumatic. “Within weeks after my arrival in Oxford,” she writes, “almost everything I said came out in monosyllables.”

She began to mutter and gesticulate to herself while walking down the street. Thoughts of suicide prompted her to seek help, and she voluntarily checked herself into the hospital; she would spend time there, on and off, for the next two years.

Saks submitted to medication, intense therapy and inpatient treatment during her time at Oxford. With the help of a dedicated psychoanalyst, she was able to complete a master's of letters in philosophy with exceedingly positive reviews from her thesis examiners.

Work seemed to be a form of therapy that helped focus her energies. “At the same time that my mind was starting to betray me, it was also becoming the source of enormous satisfaction,” she writes. “Suddenly, I had attainable goals, a sense of productivity and purpose, and tangible results against which I could measure my progress.”

Her psychoanalyst was another anchor. Mrs. Jones' office (all Saks' analysts are given pseudonyms in the book) had been Saks' safe-house in Oxford — the one place she could unleash her demons and know she would not be judged.

Psychoanalysis is a rigorous, intense form of talk therapy. Mental health experts debate whether psychoanalysis is beneficial for schizophrenics; for Saks, it has been crucial. She met with Mrs. Jones five days a week. In their free-form sessions, Mrs. Jones helped Saks interpret her fantasies, nightmares and thoughts so that Saks could turn the violence inside out and recognize its origins.

COPING WITH CHANGE

Whatever Oxford and Mrs. Jones were able to hold together for Saks, however, was swiftly shattered as she left Oxford and began her studies at Yale Law School. For Saks, the stress of the program, together with the trauma of the cross-Atlantic move and the loss of a perfectly calibrated routine, was too much. Off medication and without a therapist, she found herself unable to concentrate, hallucinating and suffering from delusions and paranoia.

In Oxford, Saks had never been involuntarily restrained, forced to take medication or in any way detained against her will. She discovered, quickly and brutally, that she would not receive such gentle treatment in the United States.

One of her law professors took her to the emergency room at Yale-New Haven Hospital to seek help. When she refused to hand over a carpenter's nail that she had unthinkingly slipped into her pocket earlier in the day, she was slammed onto a bed and bound by thick leather straps at her arms and legs.

Saks responded to forced treatment with defiance, anger and fear. Her symptoms worsened, and she was subjected to multiple drugs and evaluations. She received, for the first time, a formal diagnosis: chronic paranoid schizophrenia with acute exacerbation. Her prognosis: grave.

Doctors expected that she would soon lose the ability to care for herself. She was deemed unable to form attachments or keep friendships. She certainly was not expected to live independently or have a productive career. Unbeknownst to her, the hospital had already withdrawn her from Yale.

Saks wouldn't give in. After weeks of medication, her psychosis began to lift. But side effects took hold: She lost the ability to move her facial muscles, and her walk slowed to a pained shuffle. Saks and her parents sought treatment in a Philadelphia hospital, where she resumed psychoanalysis and slowly weaned herself off medication.

In 1983, one year after she'd first set foot on Yale's campus, Saks returned to law school, off medication and under the care of a new psychoanalyst. This pattern would continue for years: She would experience a period of psychosis, triggered by a stressful school assignment, a life change or disappointment. She'd take medication at her doctor's recommendation, and then wean herself off meds as her psychosis subsided — often against her doctor's wishes. And then the illness would reemerge, full force.

Still, she got through law school — quite successfully. She was an editor for the *Yale Law Journal*, developed close friendships with classmates and professors, and worked in Yale's mental health and children's law clinics. Helping psychiatric patients was

movement disorder caused by anti-psychotic medication. Another worrisome side effect was her dramatically increased hormone level, linked in some studies to breast cancer.

Saks switched to a new medication that seemed to be a miracle drug. Its side effects were minimal. Her grogginess dissipated, and her psychosis abated with more consistency than ever before. But the most profound effect of the drug was to convince Saks that she really was ill.

"For 20 years," she writes, "I struggled with that acceptance, coming right up to it on some days, backing away from it on others. ... Ironically, the more I accepted I had a mental illness, the less the illness defined me."

As she looks back on her career at USC Law, Saks says the school and its faculty have been extremely supportive — before and after the disclosure of her illness. "USC Law is one of the stars in the show of my life, so to speak," she says. "I could not have had whatever successes I have had without the love and support of the law school and all the people in it."

"The most important message here is that people with mental illnesses can be productive and achieve great things with the right support system," says Dilip Jeste, a frequent collaborator and a professor of psychiatry and neurosciences at UC San Diego and the VA San Diego Healthcare System. "What Elyn is doing will reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness and show that you can be creative and happy despite this terrible illness."

For Saks, the struggle with schizophrenia will continue to be a daily one. And it is not the only struggle she faces: She has coped

"For an unlucky person, I am very lucky."

deeply rewarding. She knew how they felt, and she was learning about the laws that governed their rights.

A NEW HOME

After graduating from Yale, Saks worked briefly at a public interest law firm and then taught at a local law school, now Quinnipiac University.

When she decided to pursue a tenure-track teaching position, USC was immediately attractive. The law school had a strong reputation; the people she met while visiting were warm and easy-going; and she loved the idea of returning to the sort of climate she had enjoyed in Miami as a child. She accepted USC's offer and began planning for another transition. Her first goal: Find a psychoanalyst.

Living a life of the mind continued to be Saks' salvation. At USC, she threw herself into writing and teaching. She spent nearly every waking hour in her crowded law school office — and still does. Since her arrival at USC Law, she has been among the school's most productive and respected scholarly writers.

From all but a few close colleagues, Saks kept her illness hidden. She was tempted again to ease off her medication as she began showing early signs of tardive dyskinesia, a progressive

with breast cancer, a brain hemorrhage and an ovarian cancer scare. Where her brain and body have failed her, Saks' intellectual acuity and relentless drive to succeed — along with friends, family, doctors and medications — have compensated, resulting in a happy marriage, a stellar career and a bright future.

"For an unlucky person," Saks says, "I am very lucky."

The Kenneth Johnson Memorial Research Library in New York recently honored **Elyn Saks** and *The Center Cannot Hold* with a 2008 Ken Book Award, which recognizes outstanding literary contribution to a better understanding of mental illness. The American College of Psychoanalysts presented Saks with its 2008 Distinguished Citizen Award for "significant, commendable and outstanding contributions to the public's well being," recognizing both Saks' memoir and her distinguished record of scholarship in mental health law. Saks also received a 2008 Faculty Recognition Award from the USC chapter of Phi Kappa Phi honor society.

USC Law students share their passions
and their penchant for innovation



From left: Maya Roy, Brian Tom and Matt Harrison

Avant-garde

By Rizza Barnes

TALENTED, ACCOMPLISHED AND DRIVEN, USC LAW STUDENTS READILY EMBRACE OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE THEIR MARK AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE. THESE PROFILES HIGHLIGHT THREE SUCH STUDENTS, EACH COMMITTED TO TRANSLATING POWERFUL CONCEPTS INTO TANGIBLE SOCIAL IMPACT. WHETHER OPERATING A THINK TANK, LAUNCHING A PUBLICATION, OR DEVELOPING START-UP VENTURES, THEY SHARE ONE GOAL: TO BETTER THEIR COMMUNITIES — INDEED, THE WORLD — ONE IDEA AT A TIME.

In pursuit of change

In high school, while pushing grocery carts at his part-time job, USC Law second-year student Matt Harrison used to daydream about someday launching a think tank. Really.

"I just have a love for public policy," Harrison says, "and I've always admired entrepreneurs."

With encouragement from a high school history teacher, he pursued a B.B.A. in political science at the University of Miami — an unconventional degree that he says inspired him to fuse business ideas and politics. Ultimately, though, his goal focused on earning a J.D.

"At first, I thought the only way to make my dream happen was to go to law school, practice and make the money needed to get everything started," Harrison says. "But when I came across USC Law, I realized I found a place that nurtures aspiring innovators, so here I am, doing what I've always dreamed about."

That involves pursuing a Juris Doctorate/Master of Public Policy joint degree at USC and running The Prometheus Institute, a libertarian public policy think tank he founded in 2003.

"You can do anything and everything with a law degree," he says. "Although I don't plan to be a regular attorney, it's the greatest thing in the world for me to be at this school. USC Law has taught me the value of interdisciplinary knowledge. All of my classes help me better understand the intersection of law and policy in our society, especially in discovering what needs change, as well as how to change it. What I'm studying in class enriches what I'm doing at Prometheus."

Based in Orange County, where Harrison was born and raised, Prometheus — named after the Greek god who stole fire from Zeus and gave it to mortals for their use — is dedicated to marketing new policy ideas directly to the public, through creative marketing, outreach and activism. As a fledgling think tank with limited resources (aside from securing donations and applying for grants, Prometheus sells merchandise via an online store), the staff finds creative means to collaborate. Meetings usually are held in someone's house, with East Coast-based staffers joining by video conference.

The staff of 11 includes Harrison, as executive director, and USC Law classmate Rand Getlin, who serves as chief operations officer. Other classmates, including William Helvestine and Daniel Ballon, have contributed articles to the think tank's online magazine.

While Harrison devotes much of his time to research and writing, Getlin focuses on outreach, marketing Prometheus to new audiences and to potential donors, and forging strategic alliances. Their



Rand Getlin and Matt Harrison

mission: for Prometheus to be fully sustainable upon their graduation from USC Law.

"I am as passionate about this institute as I've been with anything in my life," Getlin says. "I believe that this organization is capable of changing the world. And isn't that why many of us came to law school in the first place?"

Last fall, Prometheus received its first two foundation grants, which will support the organization's carbon tax project. The staff is working on a web site aimed at creating public support for a policy idea sparked by Harrison's Global Warming course at USC Law: a carbon tax set at market rate instead of by policy makers. With the slogan "Pay Your Air Share," Harrison says he hopes the project will, at the very least, make people think.

"There *is* political interest in our generation — we're just looking for something we can identify with," he says. "Hopefully, Prometheus can provide that. At the very least, we want people to say, 'I don't really dig politics, but I dig what you do.'"

For more information on the The Prometheus Institute, visit www.readpi.com.



Maya Roy

Serving the public

Third-year student Maya Roy knew she was destined for public service after she worked on a case with the American Civil Liberties Union in March 2005, when the ACLU of Southern California challenged a school district's decision to segregate pregnant high school students from their peers. The opportunity came as Roy completed her work at Skadden, Arps in New York and Los Angeles, as a paralegal on the WorldCom case.

"It was amazing to have had this contrast of experiences," Roy says. "In New York, I was involved in high-powered meetings, with five or more partners, in the middle of Times Square. In California, I was interviewing young girls who were frustrated with their educational experience. My work with the ACLU was about people, not money; I was helping to make someone's life better. In the end, there was no comparison."

Roy continues to volunteer two days a week with the ACLU. She also has worked with the NAACP, researching and advocating for the voting rights of people displaced by Hurricane Katrina. And with her immediate future mapped out — she will clerk for Judge Virginia Phillips in the Central District of California after graduating from USC Law in May — Roy says this academic year is the perfect time to squeeze in one more project: help launch the *Los Angeles Public Interest Law Journal (LAPILJ)*.

A public interest journal focusing on the L.A. community already is unique. Forming a staff that involves, to date, four different law schools is extraordinary.

According to a mission statement drafted by the editors: "The breadth of attorneys and academics involved in public

interest work extends beyond any given law school. A multi-school journal lets students take advantage of the full range of public interest contacts in Los Angeles, and to work on issues that are in their backyard."

Collaborating with students from Loyola, UCLA and Southwestern law schools, Roy, a transfer student from Loyola, serves as the USC editor. She was recruited to join the staff by former classmate Joshua Adams, who conceptualized the journal.

"*LAPILJ* simply could not have gotten off the ground without Maya," Adams says. "We started working together on the journal last fall, when she agreed to take on a leadership role. She's an ideal partner because she has done extensive work with prestigious public interest organizations and because she has previous journal experience. Her accomplishments bring a level of credibility to *LAPILJ*."

To be published entirely online, *LAPILJ* will introduce its inaugural issue this year.

"We're not at all trying to compete with honors journals and law reviews at the participating schools," Roy says. "*LAPILJ* offers a regional focus and truly is a grass roots connection among students and public service practitioners in Los Angeles."

Because conflicting school schedules make meetings tough to coordinate, the staff communicates primarily by e-mail and phone. For Roy, the opportunity to be part of a groundbreaking project that supports her passion far outweighs the obstacles.

"When someone has a really great idea, you want to make it happen," she says. "This is going to be a phenomenal project. More people talking about public interest issues is a good thing."

For more information on *LAPILJ*, visit www.losangelespublicinterestlawjournal.org.

Entrepreneurial spirit

When third-year student Brian Tom collaborated with a childhood friend to create a couple of online programs in 2005, they hoped their efforts would one day lead to financial freedom. But they never guessed it would happen so quickly.

Just months after launching Planzo (a customizable web calendar recently named one of “The 10 Best [Non-Google] Web Apps” by *PC World* magazine) and Frappr (an online community mapper that boasted more than 2 million users during its peak), Tom found himself flying to San Francisco the weekend before his 1L finals, working 13-hour days to complete the sale of both sites and ensure that their legal bases were covered.

Terms of the deal and the buyer’s name remain private, but Tom says he was able to splurge on a plasma TV and is positioned to graduate from law school debt-free. Still, he felt a bit restless after closing the deal.

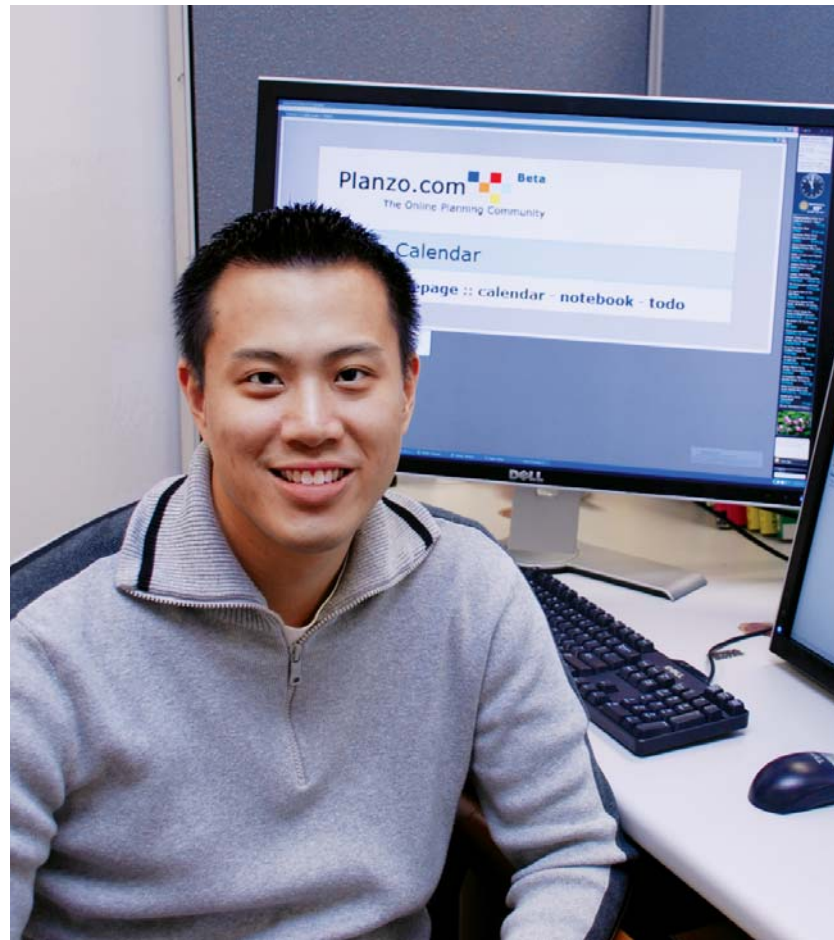
“I had a really great time running the company,” recalls Tom, who received his undergraduate degree from the USC Marshall School of Business. “I was answering 50 to 60 e-mails a day, fielding questions and comments from users. It felt good to help people and have a constituency to answer to. One user actually sent us a thank-you note because he met his fiancée on Frappr.”

Referring to life after the sale, Tom says: “It’s definitely nice to be more financially secure, but I needed to find something again that would be intrinsically satisfying and meaningful in my life.”

“I needed to find something again that would be intrinsically satisfying and meaningful in my life.”

He ended up interning at the Department of Justice, working on taxation litigation. Although he enjoyed his internship, the experience solidified his intent to pursue a career in business, so he continued his entrepreneurial pursuits. His new venture: helping foreign investors tap into the American real estate market.

In partnership with a fellow Marshall School graduate who is based in India, Tom’s recently formed company “is in the baby stages right now. My partner usually flies in every quarter so we can catch up and get some face time. For the most part, we work on analyzing trends so we can identify the best long-term investment deals for our clients.”



Brian Tom

More than just an enterprise, Tom hopes the company can help people affected by the market’s current downward cycle.

“More people will be displaced from their homes due to the mortgage crisis,” Tom says. “One option we’re looking into is to

buy homes in danger of foreclosing and renting them back to the previous owners. This way, they don’t have to uproot their families or make rash decisions about where to live next.”

Until the company grows and requires full-time management, however, Tom has been enjoying his upper-division courses at USC Law, such as Real Estate Transactions and Real Estate Finance.

“I like the law school, my classes and professors,” Tom says. “I’m also excited about the network of friends I’ve been able to create here at USC. I look forward to working with them in the future.”

Faculty

*Footnotes (a selection of recent faculty activities)



Scott Bice '68, Robert C. Packard Professor of Law, has been elected to the board of directors of St. Joseph's Healthcare Alliance, the parent organization of QueensCare, which provides health services to the poor and makes grants to educational institutions to support teaching and research on healthcare issues.



Alex Capron, Scott H. Bice Chair in Healthcare Law, Policy and Ethics, spoke at "Bioethics in the Real World," the 21st Annual Conference of the European Association of Centres of Medical Ethics, held at the University of Zurich. His paper on "International Norms for Organ Transplantation" was part of a panel on "From Deliberation to Norm – Bioethics, Policy and Law."



Mary Dudziak, Judge Edward J. and Ruey L. Guirado Professor of Law, History and Political Science, was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the American Society for Legal History. This represents the third time she has been elected to the ASLH Board. She presented several papers last year, including: "Making Law, Making War, Making America" on a plenary panel at the conference of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations in Virginia; "Law as Public History: How Supreme Court Opinions, Like Historical Monuments, Enable Visions of the Past to Shape the Future," at the University of Alabama Law School; and "Mark Tushnet's Thurgood Marshall, and the Rule(s) of Law," at the "Conference on Law and Philosophy: The Work of Mark Tushnet" at Quinnipiac Law School.



Elizabeth Garrett, Sydney M. Irmas Professor of Public Interest Law, Legal Ethics, and Political Science, gave the keynote address on "The Prospects for Federal Tax Reform" at the Ernst & Young Second Annual Domestic Tax Conference in Chicago. She presented a paper, "Framework Legislation and Federalism," to be published in the *Notre Dame Law Review*, at a conference held at Notre Dame Law School on "Separation of Powers as a Safeguard of Federalism."



Gillian Hadfield, Richard L. and Antoinette S. Kirtland Professor of Law and Professor of Economics, completed her fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford, where she gave a seminar on her research on the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund and the democratic functions of civil litigation. She also presented a public lecture titled, "Law for Flat World: Can you build a 21st Century economy on a 19th Century legal platform?" She presented her paper, "Settlement Values: How 9/11 Victims Saw the Choice between Money and Going to Court," at the annual meeting of the Law and Society Association in Berlin and "The Quality of Law: Judicial Incentives, Legal Human Capital and the Evolution of Law" at the Law and Economics workshop at the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law.



Rebecca S. Loneragan was named associate director of legal writing and advocacy and adjunct assistant professor at USC Law. She teaches Legal Writing and Advocacy and serves as a faculty advisor to the Hale Moot Court Honors Program. Previously Loneragan worked at the U.S. Attorney's Office for 16 years, trying complex cases involving corrupt federal agents, classified information and espionage. She also was a pro tem judge for the Los Angeles Superior Court from 2001-04.



Thomas D. Lyon, Judge Edward J. and Ruey L. Guirado Chair in Law and Psychology, gave the keynote address at the annual meeting of the National Association of Counsel for Children in Keystone, Colo., and spoke on “Learning to

Listen to Children.” Last summer, he conducted child interviewing training for judges in Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas; for sexual abuse response teams in Long Beach, Calif.; and for the Children’s Law Center interns in Los Angeles. He also presented research on children’s understanding of accurate and inaccurate statements at the International Association of Law & Mental Health conference in Padua, Italy, and was invited to present “Questioning Children In and Out of Court” at the 80th Annual Meeting of the California State Bar. His paper “The History of Children’s Hearsay” (co-authored with Ray LaMagna ’06) was published in the *Indiana Law Journal*, and a book chapter, “False Denials: Overcoming Methodological Biases in Abuse Disclosure Research,” was published in *Disclosing Abuse: Delays, Denials, Retractions, and Incomplete Reports*.



Andrei Marmor, Maurice Jones Jr. Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy, has published *Law in the Age of Pluralism* (Oxford University Press 2007), a collection of essays on the intersection of legal and political philosophy.



Lisa Mead '89, associate dean, moderated a student panel on “International Public Interest Opportunities: Discover the Possibilities” at the Equal Justice Works conference in Washington, D.C. Along with Priya Sridharan, USC Law

director of career services, and Malissa Barnwell-Scott, USC Law student programs advisor, Mead co-authored a chapter, “An Overview of Public Service and Introduction to the Public Interest Landscape,” of the 2007 edition of the *Law School Guide to Public Interest Careers*, published by the National Association of Legal Career Professionals. She also wrote an article for *Newsweek* about the legal work performed in the Gulf Coast by USC Law students in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.



Clare Pastore, associate professor of the practice of law, published the article “U.S. Supreme Court on IDEA Parental Rights: What Advocates Need to Know,” in the September-October 2007 issue of *Clearinghouse Review*, the national journal

for poverty law advocates. She also participated in the first “Reproductive Rights and Justice Retreat” sponsored by the Center for Genetics and Society and the ACLU. She filed an amicus curiae brief on behalf of the Los Angeles County Bar Association in a case involving protection of client information, in the federal district court for the District of Columbia.



Jean Rosenbluth '93, director of legal writing and advocacy and clinical associate professor, gave a presentation on “The Art of Reverse-Image Storytelling in Legal Practice” at the conference

“Once Upon a Legal Time: Applied Storytelling in the Law,” held in London and jointly sponsored by the Legal Writing Institute and the City University Law School of London.



Nomi M. Stolzenberg, Nathan and Lilly Shapell Chair in Law, authored “Anti-Anxiety Law: Winnicott and the Legal Fiction of Paternity,” published in *American Imago*, Volume 64, Number 3, a special issue of the journal of *Psychoanalysis*

and the *Human Sciences*. She also participated in the Law & Humanities Interdisciplinary Conference on Law & Psychoanalysis at Columbia Law School, co-sponsored by the USC Center for Law, History and Culture. She presented a paper, “Facts on the Ground,” at a conference on “Techniques of Ownership” at the London School of Economics, co-sponsored by Cornell Law School. She spoke on “Liberalism in a Romantic State” at the Law & Society Conference in Berlin.



Jennifer Urban, clinical associate professor of law and director of the USC Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic, along with her students, spoke on fair use and orphan works at the National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture

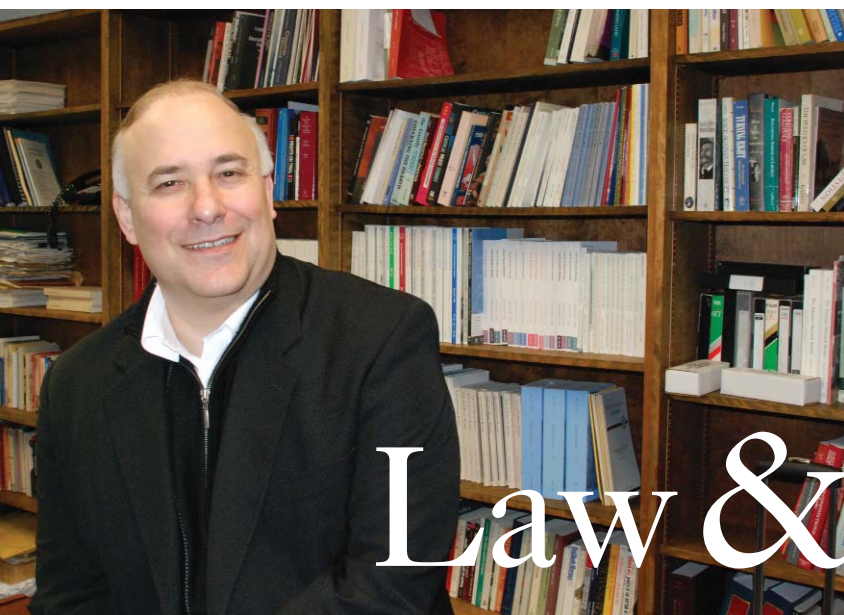
2007 Conference. Urban also chaired a panel on “Legal and Business Aspects of User-Generated Content in Japan vs. the United States” at the USC Global Conference in Tokyo.



Charles Whitebread, George T. and Harriet E. Pfleger Chair in Law, spoke to the Oklahoma Judges in Oklahoma City, the North American Judges Association in Vancouver, British Columbia, the Washington State Judicial

Conference in Vancouver, Wash., and the Wisconsin Judges and Public Defenders Conference in Milwaukee on “Recent Decisions of the United States Supreme Court.” He also presented his examining techniques lecture at various universities including UCLA, Southern Methodist, Texas Wesleyan, University of Houston, South Texas, Texas Southern, Oklahoma City University and Tulane. He recently published the second edition of his book *The Eight Secrets of Top Exam Performance in Law School*. While at the University of Alberta School of Law as a distinguished visiting professor, he spoke on “Recent Developments in American Criminal Law” and the “History of the Non-Medical Use of Drugs in the United States and Canada.”

USC Law welcomes renowned political scientist



Mat McCubbins

Mathew McCubbins, a nationally recognized political scientist and legal scholar, has been named co-director of the USC-Caltech Center for the Study of Law and Politics (CSLP).

Along with USC Law Professor Elizabeth Garrett, McCubbins heads CSLP, a unique network of interconnected scholars drawn from such diverse disciplines as law, political science, economics, public administration, psychology and communications. Since its creation in 2000, the center's scholars have combined law and the social sciences to study elections, initiatives, democratic institutions, and legal and political processes. It works closely with the Initiative and Referendum Institute at USC, the nation's premier think tank on direct democracy.

"I'm pleased to be part of a research center that has long been the leading force, both nationally and internationally, in the study of voter initiatives and referenda," says McCubbins.

CSLP scholars recently have been involved in an assessment of the accuracy and vulnerability of voting technology, from check marks on paper ballots to touch-screen voting devices. This spring, as part of a research project generously funded by the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation, the center is completing a study of local initiatives and referenda and the effect of statewide initiatives on the revenue strategies of city and county governments.

McCubbins came to USC Law last year as a visiting professor and now has a long-term affiliation with the school. He continues to be a distinguished professor in political science at the University of California, San Diego, where he holds the chancellor's associates endowed chair.

"Mat brings terrific energy and scholarly expertise to CSLP," says Garrett, the Sydney M. Irmas Professor of Public Interest Law, Legal Ethics, and Political Science. "In the past few months alone, the symposia he has organized on topics related to law and

politics have brought together dozens of scholars from various disciplines, from both USC and other outstanding institutions such as Stanford, Caltech and UCSD."

At USC Law, McCubbins teaches Statutory Interpretation. (He is one of the nation's leading scholars on this topic, authoring numerous articles and book chapters.) He often invites distinguished speakers to class, including U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge M. Margaret McKeown, Professor Daniel Rodriguez of the University of Texas Law School, and Dr. Paul Zak of Claremont Graduate School.

"Mat McCubbins stands at the top of his field. We are thrilled and honored to have him as a member of our faculty," says Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. "He personifies the interdisciplinary approach to legal studies, which has been a hallmark of USC for decades. He makes a strong institution even stronger."

McCubbins holds a Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology and is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a former fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. He is the co-author of six books, editor or co-editor of eight additional books, and the author or co-author of nearly 100 scholarly articles. (He has published under the nom de plume of McNollgast with his co-authors and CSLP scholars Roger Noll and Barry Weingast.)

He also served as a co-editor of the *Journal of Law, Economics & Organization* (Oxford University Press) for eight years. He currently serves on the board of the Society on Empirical Legal Studies, as co-editor of the *Journal of Legal Analysis*, published by Harvard Law School, and as co-network director for the Political Science Network within the Social Science Research Network.

— Gilien Silsby

Rising scholars Kim Shayo Buchanan and Camille Gear Rich join the faculty



Camille Gear Rich and Kim Shayo Buchanan

New additions

The USC Gould School of Law has recruited two legal scholars, Kim Shayo Buchanan and Camille Gear Rich, who joined the faculty last summer as assistant professors.

Buchanan specializes in constitutional law, torts, prisoners' rights, reproductive rights, race, gender and sexual regulation. Her current research explores the gender stereotypes that inform courts' and prisons' toleration of sexual harassment among men. Rich specializes in children and the law and anti-discrimination law. Her current research explores the unstable and contingent nature of racial and ethnic identity, examining how racial and ethnic meaning is produced and negotiated by individuals, communities and the law.

"With Camille and Kim, we continue USC Law's tradition of hiring superb faculty," says Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. "Both were highly sought after and chose to come to USC because they recognized the unique nature of our academic community. We are fortunate to have them as colleagues."

Rich, who taught a seminar on Children, Sexuality and the Law last fall and is teaching Legal Profession this spring, calls USC Law a perfect fit because of its "vibrant, top-quality faculty, superior research facilities, and diverse and dynamic student body."

"My interactions with students both inside and outside of the classroom consistently demonstrate that I made the right choice," Rich says. "Students here have outstanding potential and care deeply about the important issues of our time. Additionally, because a large portion of my work focuses on anti-discrimination issues and the challenges of managing diversity, USC and Los Angeles generally have provided me with the unique opportunity to explore these issues in an atmosphere where questions of race are not automatically reduced to a contest between blacks and whites."

Most recently a senior associate with Debevoise & Plimpton in New York City, Rich earned her bachelor's degree from Brown University and her law degree at Yale University, where she worked on the *Yale Law Journal* and *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism*. In 2001-02, Rich clerked for Judge Rosemary Barkett on the U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. She spent the preceding year clerking for Judge Robert L. Carter on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Buchanan, who taught a seminar on Prisoners' Rights in the fall and is teaching Constitutional Law this spring, says she chose USC because of the law school's commitment to scholarly excellence and its strong, diverse student body.

"USC has an exceptional student culture. My students are great at expressing differing points of view in ways that are kind and mutually respectful, which is not necessarily the case at many law schools," she says. "That makes it a pleasure to teach them, especially since my courses raise such hot-button political issues."

She adds: "Because I'm working on prisoners' rights, California — which, sadly, has a huge and expanding prison population — is the place to be. Between a vibrant community of advocates and a changing political scene, it's exciting to be here right now."

Buchanan earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Queen's University and her law degree from the University of Toronto. She received her LL.M. at Columbia University, where she is currently a J.S.D. candidate and Morris Fellow. She was a litigation associate at McCarthy Tétrault and at Sack Goldblatt Mitchell in Toronto and a senior fellow at the Center for Reproductive Rights in New York City.

— Gilien Silsby

Professors receive
newly endowed positions

Sponsored scholars

Three USC Law professors were named to endowed faculty positions in a ceremony held last fall. Ariela Gross, Daniel Klerman and Thomas Lyon were honored before friends, family and colleagues as the inaugural holders of two new professorships and one new chair.

"All three are dedicated teachers and institutional citizens," said Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. "They are role models for what we would all like to be in this community."

Named the John B. and Alice R. Sharp Professor of Law and History, Gross is the author of *Double Character: Slavery and Mastery in the Antebellum Southern Courtroom* and co-author of several history textbooks. Her new book, *What Blood Won't Tell: Racial Identity on Trial in America*, will be published this year.

Although legal academia and other disciplines now incorporate history in their curriculum, Gross — whose research and writing focus on race and slavery throughout U.S. history — said her path was somewhat unusual when she began her studies in the early 1990s.

"USC turned out to be the most welcoming and nurturing place possible for a legal historian," she said.

Klerman, named the Charles L. and Ramona I. Hilliard Professor of Law and History, focuses his scholarship on English legal history and law and economics. In 2004 he was awarded the Sutherland Prize by the American Society for Legal History for best article on English legal history. In 2001 he received the David Yale Prize from the Selden Society for distinguished contribution to the history of the laws and legal institutions of England and Wales.

Calling USC his "intellectual home," Klerman thanked his colleagues for teaching him "the importance of seeing the complexity of issues, rather than searching for a single definitive cause or explanation."

Lyon, whose research interests include child witnesses, child maltreatment and domestic violence, was named the Judge Edward J. and Ruey L. Guirado Chair in Law and Psychology. His work has been supported by the National Institutes of Health,



From left: Daniel Klerman, Robert Rasmussen, Ariela Gross and Thomas Lyon

the National Science Foundation, the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, and the California Endowment, among others. Widely published, Lyon's research integrates developmental psychology in order to make recommendations for practice.

"The message of this work is that child witnesses, far from being the weak link in a chain of evidence, actually make the most compelling case for protective intervention through their narratives of mistreatment," said Lyon. "Professionals who envision their role as speaking for children can learn to let children speak for themselves."

— Maria Iacobo

SUPPORTING USC LAW

Endowed chairs and professorships are made possible by generous benefactors who believe in USC Law's ability to offer an outstanding interdisciplinary legal education.

Ariela Gross' professorship is named for the late John B. and Alice R. Sharp. In addition to their contributions to USC Law, the couple were life members of USC Associates and generous contributors to Town and Gown scholarships. Mr. Sharp was an investment banker and Mrs. Sharp a prominent businesswoman.

Daniel Klerman's professorship is named for the late Charles L. and Ramona I. Hilliard, who led successful careers in real estate and ranching. In addition to endowing professorships at USC Law and the USC Marshall School of Business, they have supported the teaching library and cancer research center.

Thomas Lyon's faculty position is named for the Honorable Edward J. Guirado '32, a distinguished graduate of USC Law, and his wife, Ruey L. Guirado. The late couple also created many scholarships at the law school. Judge Guirado spent 20 years in private practice, specializing in banking, finance and probate matters, prior to joining the bench.

Associate dean named
to L.A. police commission

To protect and to serve

USC Law's Robert Saltzman last fall became the newest member of the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners, which oversees the Los Angeles Police Department.

Saltzman was nominated by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and unanimously confirmed by the Los Angeles City Council. The five-member board creates policy for the LAPD and often sets the tone for high-profile investigations. The group meets weekly to determine whether reported uses of force are within LAPD policy.

According to Villaraigosa, Saltzman “brings passion, dedication and an impeccable record of integrity to the Police Commission. He is a devoted public servant and committed city leader who will work every day to ensure the safety and security of all Angelenos.”

Saltzman, a legal ethics expert and an associate dean at USC Law, was formerly vice president of the city's ethics commission. In his new role on the police commission, Saltzman said he will focus on expanding the size and diversity of the force. He also will work to reach full compliance with the consent decree that governs the LAPD as a result of the Rampart investigation.

“I think we all have concerns about ensuring that the police appropriately protect those they are sworn to protect,” says Saltzman. “Given the lack of resources, and given the diversity of the communities in Los Angeles, sometimes it is a very difficult thing for a police officer to simultaneously protect both public safety and the rights of those affected by criminal activity.”

Saltzman joined USC Law in 1988. As associate dean, he oversees student services — which includes student affairs, financial aid, and registration and records — career services and academic support. He specializes in legal and professional ethics, the learning process in law school, legislation and the political process, and disabilities issues.



Robert Saltzman

“This is indeed a well-deserved appointment,” says Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. “I have no doubt that the commission will be a better institution for having Rob on board, just as our community is enriched through Rob's talents and efforts.”

Saltzman is a member of the National Gay and Lesbian Leadership Institute's board of directors and served on the board of trustees and public policy committee of the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center from 1999 to 2001. He was appointed to the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission in 2005. Previously he served on the board of trustees of the Law School Admission Council and on the board of visitors of the Rockefeller Center for Public Policy at Dartmouth College.

Prior to joining the USC faculty, Saltzman worked as special counsel to the director of health services for Los Angeles County and senior deputy to then-County Supervisor Ed Edelman. Saltzman is admitted to practice law in California and Colorado (inactive); he is a member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association and the Los Angeles Lesbian and Gay Lawyers Association.

— Gilien Silsby

Combating corruption

*Ellen Nachtigall Biben '92 leads
New York's Public Integrity Bureau
while balancing full family life*



Just three weeks into her new job as New York's special deputy attorney general for public integrity, Ellen Nachtigall Biben '92 scored a major coup.

Biben and her public integrity team prosecuted and secured a plea from a high-level state auditor who admitted to stealing \$1.2 million in taxpayer funds over a nine-year period. The auditor agreed to serve up to 10 years in state prison and sell his prized Corvette collection to help repay the money.

"Not only did this official abuse his authority, he also violated the public trust," says Biben, who was selected to head the public corruption unit last year by New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. "His was a really bold scheme that fell squarely in our bailiwick."

Since graduating from USC Law, Biben has spent much of her time fighting crime. Before being tapped by Cuomo to lead the newly created Public Integrity Bureau, she served for 11 years in the New York County District Attorney's Office. As a prosecutor there she produced several long-term, comprehensive investigations into organized crime, money laundering, public corruption, tax evasion and other forms of racketeering.

"When I moved from Los Angeles back to Manhattan for a job with the D.A., I never guessed it would be for more than a decade," says Biben, who was promoted to deputy bureau chief of the Manhattan D.A.'s Office Rackets Bureau after five years. "I had a lot of responsibility, and I felt productive and in control of my schedule. It was a great environment to start a family. I think it's very difficult for mothers working as attorneys to find places where you have both rewarding work and flexibility."

Biben — whose children are 6, 4 and 2 — wasn't looking to leave the D.A.'s Office, but in early 2007, she got a call from Cuomo. "He made me an offer that was too exciting to pass up," she says.

As head of the Public Integrity Bureau, Biben oversees civil and criminal cases, pursuing perpetrators of fraud and bad conduct statewide and seeking to recover misspent taxpayer funds.

"I've learned that you have to be satisfied by your work," she says. "If you take time away from your family, you need to be challenged or you're going to be miserable. Trying to build this bureau and almost tripling the size — it's no easy feat. But the work is very compelling and satisfying."

Biben grew up in Manhattan and, upon graduation from USC Law, clerked for the Honorable Alan H. Nevas of the U.S. District Court for Connecticut. Still, she says, deciding to move back to New York soon after law school wasn't easy. A lover of the outdoors and water sports, she initially was drawn to Los Angeles for its temperate weather and nearby beaches.

"I visited USC and fell in love with it," she says. "Plus, the education I received at USC Law was amazing."

Biben, who participated in clinical programs at USC and served as executive editor of the *Southern California Law Review*, says she still thinks about Professor Susan Estrich's Criminal Law course and Professor Ron Garet's Law, Language and Ethics class.

"USC Law's curriculum was focused on theory, and not just practice," Biben says. "Ron Garet's interdisciplinary approach to the law and focus on different philosophies and theories of justice still resonate with me. In criminal practice, for example, there are penal codes, but there's also the Constitution. You're dealing with people and ethical considerations."

"At USC, I learned how to think critically, which continues to serve me well."

— Gilien Silsby

The best offense

*Public defender Russell Griffith '88
advocates for the disenfranchised*

"The first rule of working in public interest law is to understand you're in the human misery business," says Russell Griffith '88. "As a public defender, your job is to mitigate that human misery."

Griffith knows his business. He has worked for the Los Angeles Public Defender's Office for the past 18 years, 16 of them in the City of Compton. He handles around 200 cases a week, negotiating on behalf of poor and disadvantaged clients, many of whom almost certainly face jail time.

Griffith works in early disposition. Half of his cases are settled without trial; many of them are resolved favorably. In Griffith's world, "favorably" usually means defendants receive the lowest possible sentence.

Take, for instance, the time he represented a mentally ill woman in her 50s, with no prior record, who goes off her medication and commits assault. No weapon is used, no real harm done. Declared incompetent to face charges, she is released from a hospital a year later with no medications or follow-up care and assaults someone else. Mistakenly assigned a previous strike, she was facing more than eight years in state prison when Griffith intervened on her behalf.

"The D.A. can't dismiss such a case, but we got rid of her strike and she was released for time served," he says. "She's an example of a decent person of little means who would never have committed a crime had her mental health been provided for. Am I happy? No. Do I think it's a good result considering the circumstances? Yes."

Griffith was acquainted with society's downtrodden long before attending USC Law. In his home state of Connecticut, he served as a welfare case worker for several years before earning a master's degree in education. He taught high school for a year but says he didn't like it.

Finally, in 1985 he moved to Los Angeles to enroll at USC Law, where his brother, Thomas Griffith, was — and still is — a professor of tax and criminal law. Russell Griffith says he went to law school with the intent of pursuing public service, and he credits USC Law professors such as Charles Whitebread for preparing him for the work he does today.

"In addition to being hugely interesting, Whitebread's class gave a realistic and accurate view of the criminal justice system,"



he says. "What I learned there translated directly to how things work in the real world."

A Poverty Law class introduced Griffith to Mental Health Advocacy Services, a group in which he was active throughout law school. He also met his wife, Stacy Griffith '88, at USC Law. She works for the public defender's office as well.

As for his inclination to help the poor and disenfranchised, Griffith credits his grandmother, a lifelong teacher who was, he says, "very liberal, in the best sense of the word."

"I was never interested in a job where the prevailing question is which rich guy gets the money," he says. "As a public defender, you are never making a decision based on how you will be financially compensated. That leaves you with a very clean feeling."

Although he finds his work rewarding, Griffith says the job can be frustrating, too.

"Sometimes there is virtually nothing you can do for a client," he says. "And unlike some jobs, the level of stress is never based on finances or promotional issues — it's knowing that you have someone's life in your hand, and that, whether or not you like what your client is accused of, you have to do your best by him or her."

— Darren Schenck

Courage of his convictions

*Robert Dugdale '93 finds fulfillment
as a federal prosecutor*

In 2004, federal prosecutor Robert Dugdale '93 arrived in Siberia with two FBI agents, two LAPD homicide detectives, an IRS agent and an interpreter. His mission: obtain more evidence on three Russians indicted for kidnapping, ransoming and brutally murdering five Los Angeles residents, then dumping their bodies in a reservoir near Yosemite National Park.

Two years later, Dugdale successfully argued the government's case at trial. Two of the defendants were sentenced to death, and the third defendant, tried separately, was sentenced to life imprisonment.

As chief of the Violent and Organized Crime Section at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, Dugdale routinely confronts the worst of humanity: murderers, child pornographers and drug traffickers. But he also sees people at their very best: prosecutors and law enforcement personnel who work around the clock to fight and prevent crime.

"In this job, you find there are almost no limits to the bad things people can do, or to the heroism people can display in combating such criminals," says Dugdale. "As a prosecutor, every decision you make has a real impact on people. How to charge or plead a case will affect someone's life — defendant, victims and family members."

The prospect of owning such responsibility helped persuade Dugdale in 1997 to leave the corporate law firm Skadden, Arps, where he had worked as a litigator for several years.

"I wanted to be the guy arguing the case at the lectern, not the one carrying the partners' bags to court," he says. "As a prosecutor for the federal government, you gain more experience and have more influence than is possible as an associate in a large law firm."

Working for the U.S. Attorney's Office places Dugdale not only at the forefront of dramatic legal battles, but also within arm's reach of those victimized by crime.

"It's a life-changing experience to hear from victims and speak for them in court," he says. "You do everything you can to punish people who have done so much harm."



Conversely, Dugdale gets an intimate look into the minds and motivations of those who commit crimes.

"It's important to recognize the difference between those defendants who are inexcusably bad, who commit crime for base reasons, versus those individuals whose crime is an aberration compared to the person they are or could be," he says. "In this job, I see more of the former."

Despite the revulsion that he personally may feel for some of the defendants he prosecutes, Dugdale says one must remain mindful that they, too, have rights that need to be protected.

"The special thing about being prosecutor is this: You're not only an advocate for one side," he says. "You need to make sure everything is done fairly and think of the law as a higher calling."

While a student at USC Law, Dugdale says he knew he wanted to be a litigator, but he never considered working as a prosecutor. "I didn't even take a criminal procedure class," he notes. "But the school prepared me to do whatever I wanted to do when I got out."

It's also the place where he met his wife, Katherine Dugdale '93, a partner at Perkins Coie. In December, she gave birth to the couple's third son, Logan Maddox.

— Darren Schenck

Rule of law

Valorie J. Vega '82 credits USC for helping her succeed on and off the bench

While studying at USC Law, Valorie J. Vega '82 took courses in mental health law simply because she found them interesting. Little did she know how much the classes would benefit her in the long run.

"Back then, I had no idea how practical and useful they would be for my career path," says Vega, a veteran jurist in Nevada's Clark County, who presided over a lower court's mental health program early in her judicial career. The job required her to interface with administrators in the state's mental health system, psychologists, psychiatrists and mental health social workers — and understand their processes, diagnoses, prescriptions and lexicon.

Now, as a district court judge, Vega sentences many people with varying degrees of mental illness in a caseload that is 50 percent civil and 50 percent criminal. If probation is granted, she can impose conditions that include an appropriate treatment plan for counseling and medication.

As part of the Clark County courts, Vega also has presided over many unique — sometimes high-profile — cases that fall under the "only in Las Vegas" category, including a wrongful termination suit against illusionists Siegfried and Roy, brought by a professional lion tamer; the Stratosphere Hotel and Casino's lawsuit against the Las Vegas City Council for denying its application to run a rollercoaster ride off the top of its tower, across the Strip and onto Las Vegas Boulevard; and a prostitute she convicted who, upon release from custody, sued Vega in small claims court for lost wages.

Vega also vividly recalls her most rewarding case as deputy district attorney. It began with one victim, who said she was sexually assaulted by her doctor in his medical office. After the defendant's arrest was televised, an additional 47 victims contacted Vega. Ultimately, nearly 100 witnesses testified during the month-long trial, and today the defendant remains incarcerated in the Nevada Department of Corrections.

Throughout her career on and off the bench, Vega credits her USC Law education for helping her succeed.

"The caliber of training I received was phenomenal," she says. "To this day, I apply the knowledge I gained from my USC professors on a daily basis."



Vega became a Clark County deputy district attorney in 1984 and was instrumental in implementing the office's first sexual assault and child abuse team. She was appointed to municipal court in 1989 and was retained and re-elected by voters until her resignation in 1999 to accept then-Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn's appointment to the district court.

"It's a very exciting time to be a jurist in Nevada because our state has grown so quickly in population," Vega says. "Since we're one of the newer states in the country, our body of law is small, but it's expanding rapidly."

Before attending law school, Vega, who is fluent in Spanish, supervised interpreters for the Eighth Judicial District Court in Las Vegas. In 2005 she received the Mignon Cardenas Lifetime Achievement Award from the Nevada Association of Court Interpreters and Translators.

In 2006 the USC La Raza Law Student Association presented Vega the Judge Armendariz Community Service Award, given annually to a judge who has demonstrated a commitment to civil rights generally and to issues affecting the Latino community.

"I was especially excited to receive the award from La Raza because I had been a member of the organization when I was at law school," says Vega. "It was really nice to come back to campus and reminisce about my time at USC."

— Jennalyn Magtoto

Dollars for democracy

By Gillian Hadfield

*Richard L. and Antoinette S. Kirtland Professor
of Law and Professor of Economics*

I've never been all that comfortable calling up strangers on the phone, and so it was with considerable trepidation that I dialed the number of a woman I didn't know who had suffered something I could not imagine: the loss of her young firefighter son in the attacks of September 11, 2001.

Far from my comfort zone of abstract economic models and legal materials, I was embarking on my first foray into interview research as part of my work on the problems of cost, delay and dysfunction in modern legal systems. I wanted to investigate how the injured and the families of those killed on 9/11 approached the extraordinary choice they faced between accepting a check for their losses from the Victim Compensation Fund and pursuing civil lawsuits against those they believed might have contributed to their losses — airlines with lax security or skyscraper owners with inadequate fire protections.

But what on earth, I wondered, could I possibly say to this mother? How could I ask the person who would answer this phone in a modest bungalow in New Jersey what she thought of the legal system when she had lost a son in a terrorist attack? What right did I have to treat her as a subject of intellectual curiosity? I anticipated the questions would gum up in my mouth like paste as I waded through awkward silences and the fear of giving offense.

When the woman — call her Doreen — answered the phone, I quickly learned that my job was not to talk but to listen. My opening academic question — “I’m interested in learning about how you viewed the choice between the Victim Compensation Fund and filing a lawsuit” — drew forth first a sharp retort — “We had no choice” — and then a flood of keen insights shot through with raw emotion.

Doreen was someone neither incapacitated by grief and anger nor in need of my cool external perspective to probe for the abstract implications of her personal experience. She had thought deeply about what her anguish over a “choice” we often treat as mundane — between money and litigation — meant for her country, citizenship and the courts. It was wrong, she told me, to set up a system that pressured people into giving up their rights to use the courts to find out what happened, to hold people accountable,



and to trigger a process that could change how things are done in the future. “The founding fathers,” she said, “would be turning in their graves” if they knew that the democracy they had created dangled millions of dollars in front of people to encourage them to fall back into the unseen pool of passive citizens.

Doreen broke into tears as she told me about the deep shame she felt when she ultimately gave in and accepted the money from the VCF. Taking that blood money, she said, felt like a betrayal of her son and her country. It meant abandoning her civic duty to find out what happened and to play a role in setting it right for the future.

My phone call with Doreen was one of many (indeed, “Doreen” is a composite to preserve confidentiality), all of which taught me the same lesson over and over again: Like the stalwart remaining six plaintiffs who have refused to settle and are pressing for a full trial in their 9/11 lawsuits against the airlines, World Trade Center and others, people care deeply about the legal system, and they see the courts as a place where they can participate in self-governance and exercise their political equality. Far from the greed that is so often attributed to those who turn to litigation, many are driven by a sense of duty and responsibility to use the extraordinary power of courts to make even the CEO of a major corporation show up and answer the questions of a housewife from New Jersey, and to prompt a public finding of who has, and who has not, lived up to their legal duties.

Professor Hadfield examines issues of legal design. Her study on the Victim Compensation Fund is forthcoming in the *Law and Society Review*.

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CALENDAR

Friday, March 7

Hale Moot Court Finals
Norris Theatre

Sunday, March 9

4th Annual Alumni/Faculty/Staff
Softball Tournament
McAllister Field

Wednesday, March 12

Scholarship Luncheon
Town and Gown

Monday through Tuesday, March 17-18

Intellectual Property Institute
Beverly Hills Hotel
(Continuing Legal Education program)

Thursday, April 10

USC Law Annual Awards Ceremony
Crocker Plaza

Thursday, April 17

Celebration of Diversity Reception
Carl M. and Carolyn C. Franklin
Faculty Lounge

Friday, April 18

Law Preview Day
Town and Gown & USC Law

Wednesday, April 23

PILF Pro Bono Awards Luncheon
Town and Gown

Thursday, April 24

Symposium on Real Estate Law and Business
Millennium Biltmore Hotel
(Continuing Legal Education program)

Friday, May 16

USC Law Commencement
McCarthy Quad

Friday, June 6

Golden Years Reunion Luncheon
Carl M. and Carolyn C. Franklin
Faculty Lounge

Saturday, June 7

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