

# USC MAGAZINE Law

FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF THE USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW ISSUE 13 | FALL/WINTER 2018



## NEW HORIZONS

*Tech believers shape the future of law*

USC Gould



**Opening new doors for the law and lawyers.** That's what the four alumni featured in our cover story do every day, whether they're working on out-of-this-world ideas or transforming the way their fellow lawyers get their jobs done.

As *Washington Post* publisher and Gould alumnus Fred Ryan (JD 1980) observed in his commencement remarks this past May: "...compared to other industries, the legal profession has been relatively shielded from technological disruption. But it would be naïve to assume that the status quo will remain forever. In fact, the legal industry is ripe for transformation."

At Gould we prepare our students to face this transformation by shaping our curriculum to provide the skills they need to practice on the cutting-edge of law. For instance, under the leadership of Prof. Jonathan Barnett (see page 14), we have grown the thought leadership component of the Media, Entertainment and Law Program (MET) and recruited big names in the media and technology law fields to teach topics such as information privacy and digital media transactions.

Yet, as we look to the future, it's also important to reflect on what grounds us in the present — our values. For thousands of Gould students, it was Prof. Ron Garett who laid the foundation for their legal careers via his "Law, Language and Values" course. The Gould community had the opportunity to reflect on Ron's influence at his retirement ceremony in April (see p. 28).

*"At Gould we prepare our students to face the transformation (of the legal profession) by shaping our curriculum to provide the skills they need to practice on the cutting-edge of law."*

Mauro Morales, a former student of Prof. Garett's recalled: "He asked us to look beyond the law — and at humanity: How do you use the law to better the community and, even more importantly, better people's lives?"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AG' or 'Guzman'.

Andrew T. Guzman

*Dean and Carl Mason Franklin Chair in Law*



A behind-the-scenes photo of how we employed a drone to capture our four "tech believers" on the beach in Venice, Calif.



## FEATURE STORY

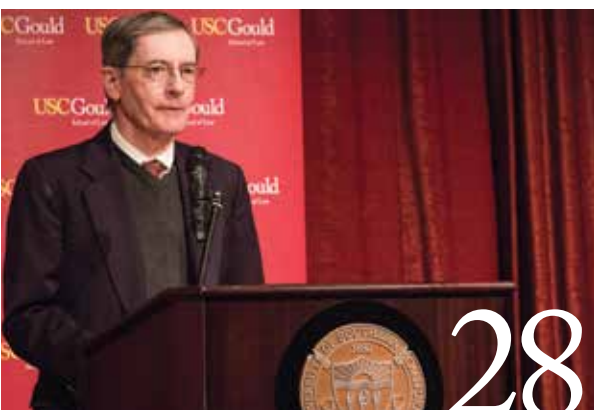
### 6 NEW HORIZONS

Each of these USC Gould alumni are working to make the impossible possible.



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# USC MAGAZINE Law

FALL | WINTER 2018

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## PROF. DAN SIMON APPOINTED TO ELITE PHI BETA KAPPA SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Dan Simon, an internationally recognized legal scholar, who studies law and psychology at USC Gould, has been appointed a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar for the 2018-19 academic year.

Simon is one of America's top experts in false conviction and a renowned interdisciplinary scholar. His book, "In Doubt: The Psychology of the Criminal Justice Process," shows how flawed investigations can produce erroneous evidence that leads to well-meaning juries sending innocent people to prison, while setting free the guilty. Simon also has authored numerous articles published in both legal and experimental psychological journals.

The Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholars deliver a series of public lectures and participate in academic life at 80 universities. Simon is one of 15 distinguished scholars in the liberal arts and sciences chosen this year, and joins an elite group of past honorees, including U.S. Supreme Court justices, Pulitzer Prize-winning writers and Nobel Prize winners.

Simon, holder of the Richard L. and Maria B. Crutcher Professor of Law and Psychology, will travel to a handful of institutions that house Phi Beta Kappa chapters across the country. He will deliver public lectures, present seminars, meet with students and faculty, and participate in class meetings and colloquia. The presentations



will focus on Simon's research on the intersection of law and psychology and the criminal justice process, as well as on his experimental psychological work in the field of human reasoning and decision-making.

"I am looking forward to sparking curiosity and thirst for inquiry in the exceptional minds of the society's student members. Keep in mind that these students are the smartest and brightest. Many of them will advance to graduate programs and ultimately shape the face of academia for years to come," Simon says. "I am particularly excited by the opportunity to whet these students' appetite for the fields of research that are closest to my heart, and to inspire them to participate in the amelioration of the criminal justice process." 📌

—Gilien Silsby

## WELCOME TO THE BOARD

The USC Gould Board of Councilors, which is composed of professional, business and community leaders, and provides counsel to the deans and faculty as well as the provost and president. Members are appointed by the president of the university for three-year terms.

Dean Andrew Guzman announced that the following new board members have been appointed to the Board of Councilors for 2018-2021:

**Amy Alderfer (JD 1999)** will serve a two-year term on the Gould Board of Councilors as she performs her duties as president of the Gould Alumni Association.

**Michael "Mike" Kelley (A.B. 1976)** has been a partner at Sidley Austin LLP since 1987 specializing in commercial litigation, securities litigation and SEC enforcement.

**Susan Kigawa (JD 1989)** is the assistant chief counsel, New Technologies and Distribution, The Walt Disney Studios.

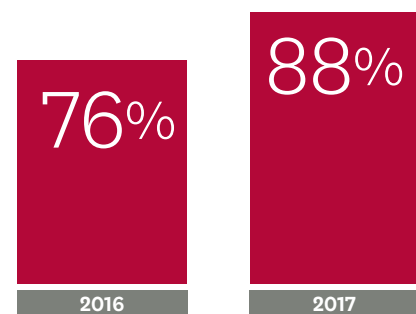
**Michele Mulrooney Jackoway (JD 1985)** is a partner and chair of Venable LLP's West Coast trust and estates practice.

**Arsine Phillips (JD 1986)** is a shareholder and of counsel at Parker Milliken where she has been practicing since graduating from Gould. 📌

## JOB PLACEMENTS UP

In May, the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* highlighted USC Gould for having one of the highest permanent job placement rates for its graduates after passing the bar.

"We encouraged students to think more nationally, and we worked with firms and employers in other states," said USC Gould Dean Andrew Guzman. The key to success? USC Gould has invested more in the career services department and made a conscious effort to expand the geographic reach for students seeking work. Eighty-eight percent of Gould's 2017 grads obtained bar passage or JD advantage positions, a 12 percent improvement from 2016. 📌



Percentage of Gould grads obtaining bar passage or JD advantage positions

## MOOT COURT 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Save the date for the 70th Anniversary Celebration for the Hale Moot Court Honors Program on Friday, March 1, 2019.

Founded in 1948, the honors program provides students with invaluable experience by engaging them in oral arguments before judges and practicing attorneys and in drafting their own appellate briefs. 📌



*Photo flashback to 1981, when U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens presided over the Moot Court finals. First Row (Left to Right): Kathleen Smith, Susan Oman, David Eisen. Second Row (Left to Right): Pauline Aranas, David Reilly, Jeffrey Thompson, U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, Howard Kroll, Anthony Bishop, Mary Alde.*



## GOULD LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE CERTIFICATES

USC Gould is offering two new online graduate certificates in Health Care Compliance and Financial Compliance designed for professionals looking to advance in these fields.

The certificates will be available this fall to both non-lawyers and lawyers interested in legal- and compliance-related aspects of health care or finance.

“The new certificates will certainly expand career opportunities for professionals pursuing health care- and compliance-related issues in various employment settings,” said Deborah Call, associate dean and chief programs officer of USC Gould’s Graduate and International Programs.

Applications are accepted year-round.

The certificates may be earned in as few as nine months and may be taken individually or in conjunction with the LLM or MSL degree as a specialization. The new certificates add to USC Gould’s other online graduate programs, including the Master of Studies in Law (MSL) degree, Master of Laws (LLM) degree, and graduate certificates in Business Law, Compliance, Entertainment Law & Industry, and Human Resources Law & Compliance. 📌

—Gilien Silsby

## GOULD QUOTABLES



*“Boycotts and shunning can have enormous moral authority. However, relying on them to settle our most difficult disagreements undercuts their authority and makes civic engagement difficult.”*

Excerpted from a July 29 opinion piece for CNN by USC Gould Prof. **SCOTT ALTMAN** about the power of protests and boycotts and why organizers should only use these tools to call out and shame the worst elements of society



*“Do voters care about campaign finance violations? Yes. In new research, we argue that campaign finance violations inform voters’ views about the elected official’s character. Members of Congress who were randomly audited and found to have violated campaign finance law fared about 5 percentage points worse in their general elections than incumbents who were not.”*

Excerpted from an Aug. 28, 2018, *Washington Post* op-ed by Prof. **ABBY WOOD**, co-written with Christian Grose of the USC Schwarzenegger Institute, based on their research paper, “Campaign Finance Transparency Affects Legislators’ Election Outcomes and Behavior”



*“There are legitimate concerns about legal liability for violating terms of service. Criminal prosecution is very unlikely, but civil suits are possible, and in the absence of a definitive legal ruling, persuading a computer owner to change policies is one way out. It’s a short-term solution that works at one site.”*

Prof. **ORIN KERR** quoted in *The New York Times* about how journalists and scholars have requested Facebook grant them exemptions to disclosure restrictions so they can conduct research and news gathering in the public interest

## STRIVING FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

In 2012, Ruben Ruiz's mother began pleading with Prof. Heidi Rummel, who directs the Post-Conviction Justice Project at USC Gould, to take his case.

At the age of 17, Ruben Ruiz had been involved in a beer run turned fight at a liquor store where a clerk was beaten to death. Convicted of special circumstance murder, he was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

At the same time that his mother was reaching out to the PCJP, the legal landscape was shifting for juvenile offenders. The U.S. Supreme Court had ruled that sentencing juveniles to life sentences without the possibility of parole, or LWOP, had serious constitutional implications.

Meanwhile, California passed the Fair Sentencing for Youth Act (FSYA) that allowed juveniles to petition the courts for resentencing to life terms with the possibility of parole. USC's PCJP was

a co-sponsor of FSYA and several subsequent juvenile justice bills that give young people a second chance.

"Ruben made a terrible mistake as a teen," said Rummel. "But he spent more than half his life in prison, and he worked to better himself and make amends without any hope of release. California's recent reforms were created with someone like him in mind."

PCJP students worked tirelessly on his case, and Ruiz was resentenced in 2014 under the FSYA. They worked another three years to convince the parole board and California Gov. Jerry Brown that Ruiz had been completely rehabilitated and should be released.

Following Gov. Brown's 2015 reversal of parole, PCJP achieved victory in November 2017.



Ruiz became the PCJP's first juvenile resentencing client to be released from prison.

"I have had a lot of legal representation, but nothing compared to the representation I received from USC Law," Ruiz said. "They never gave up on me. They spent hours with me on my case. I would not be out of prison if it wasn't for the students."

Ruiz, now 42, earned two college degrees while in prison and is committed to making amends to his family and community. 📌

—Gilien Silsby

*Prof. Heidi Rummel, client Ruben Ruiz and law student Jihyuk Song '19.*

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD AND REGIONAL UPDATES

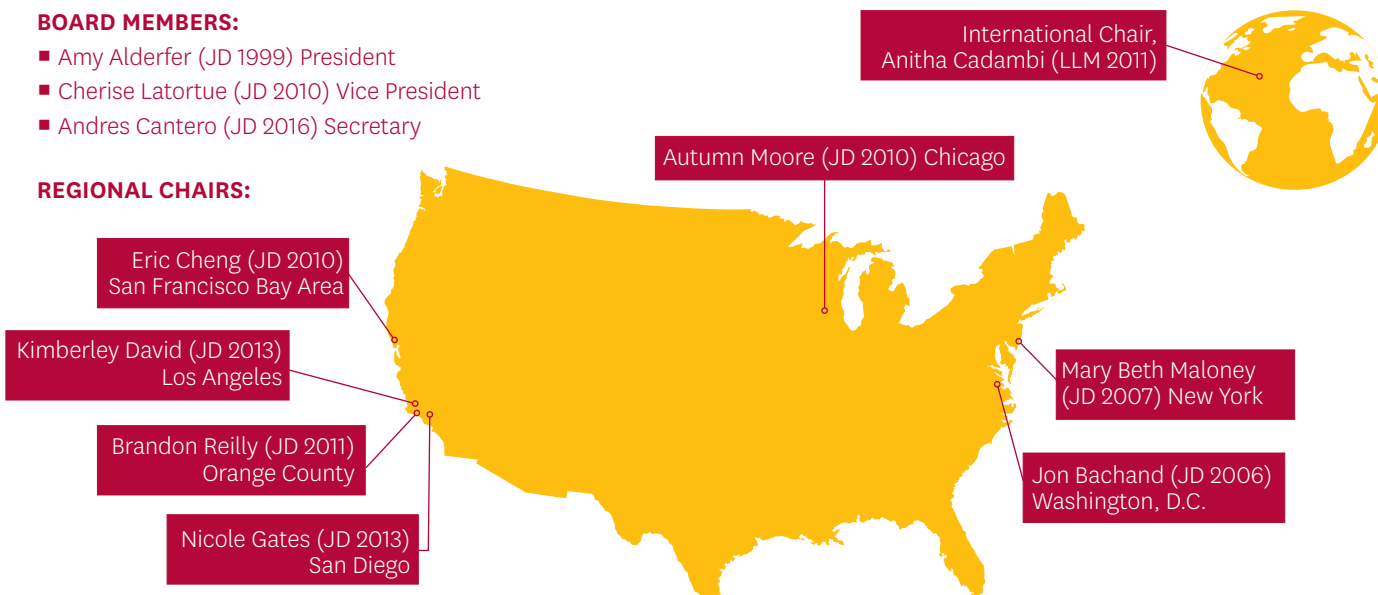
Welcome to our new Alumni Association board members and our regional chairs for 2018-2020! Our Alumni Association furthers the Trojan Family by creating and maintaining meaningful connections among alumni and the law school.

The Alumni Association is led by a volunteer alumni board appointed by the dean for two-year terms. The group oversees a wide range of networking, educational and enrichment programming throughout the year. 📌

### BOARD MEMBERS:

- Amy Alderfer (JD 1999) President
- Cherise Latortue (JD 2010) Vice President
- Andres Cantero (JD 2016) Secretary

### REGIONAL CHAIRS:



To contact your regional chair, visit: [gould.usc.edu/alumni/association/](http://gould.usc.edu/alumni/association/)

# MEET TWO **FUTURE TROJAN LAWYERS**

Take a minute to get to know two of our newest students, one LLM and one JD.



**ELENA SAKOVA** (LLM expected 2019) a business and legal affairs professional with more than seven years of corporate transactional experience in the video game industry managing licensing and publishing deals, IP and global digital distribution.

**HOMETOWN:** Perm, Russia

**PREVIOUS ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND DEGREES/CERTIFICATES:** Perm State University, Diploma in International Law, Graduated with Honors

**PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT:** Admission to USC Gould is my proudest achievement, as it's always been a pinnacle of both my professional goals and my personal dreams.

**AREA OF INTEREST:** Technology & Entrepreneurship Law and Entertainment Law

**WHY USC GOULD?** I don't have a lot of role models, but USC alumni are definitely among them. I've always been inspired by their determination, influence and highest possible level of professional knowledge.

**PROFESSIONAL GOALS:** To become a top entertainment lawyer. Because USC is inseparable from the DNA of the world's entertainment capital, Gould felt like absolutely the world's right place to achieve that. I will definitely continue my career in video games, as I see it as the most vibrant and powerful segment of entertainment.

**CLUBS:** USC Women's Law Association



**CHRIS PINEDA** (first-year JD student), an Angeleno who created Rhymes with Reason, a platform utilizing hip-hop to teach educational lessons

**HOMETOWN:** Los Angeles

**UNDERGRAD INSTITUTION:** Brown University

**COLLEGE MAJOR:** Public Policy & American Institutions

**PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT:** I am the first person in my extended family to attend law school.

**WHY USC GOULD?** When applying to law school, USC Gould was at the top of the list for many reasons. Attending USC was a childhood dream at a young age. My mother has worked at USC since the 1980s, so I grew up as part of the Trojan Family. As a first-generation student, I was drawn to Gould's First Generation Professionals program.

**AREA OF INTEREST:** Intellectual Property Law/ Entertainment Law/ Music Law

**CLUBS:** Latino Law Students Association, Music Law Society, Entertainment Law Society, Aim 4 the Heart, First Generation Professionals program

**PROFESSIONAL GOALS:** I would like to serve as general counsel to Spotify or Apple Music after practicing at a big firm for several years. At Gould, I have a desire to build a strong network of black and brown lawyers dedicated to investing in diverse and underserved communities in Los Angeles. I believe there is a need for this kind of network in spaces that severely lack diversity such as entertainment.



## **CAREER SERVICES IN CHINA**

For our alumni based in China, USC has a career services office to meet your needs, thanks to USC's deep and long-standing partnerships throughout the region. Here is their contact information:

chinacc@usc.edu  
+86 21 6137 5380  
Chong Hing Finance Center  
288 Nanjing Road West, Room 2704  
Shanghai, China

**HOURS:**  
Sunday–Thursday  
6 pm–2:30 am  
Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)  
Monday–Friday  
9 am–5:30 pm  
China Standard Time (CST) 🇨🇳





# NEW HORIZONS

## Tech Believers Take on the Future of Law

At USC Gould, we are constantly striving to provide our students with the curriculum, tools and connections so they can eventually lead us through the constantly evolving legal landscape.

The alumni featured here are prime examples of attorneys applying what they've learned at Gould, in ways that probably none of them thought possible when they arrived for their first day of class.

Three of them are entrepreneurs, launching their own award-winning start-ups, while one is literally transforming science fiction into reality at the Alphabet company's Moonshot Factory, also called X.

Whether they want to bridge the justice gap, create efficiencies for their fellow lawyers, master new technologies or translate tomorrow's ideas into today's reality, each of these USC Gould alumni are working to make the impossible possible.

PHOTOS: BRETT VAN ORT

## SHE MAKES THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE

At X, Ashley Hu (JD 2007) applies her tech and legal skills to solve unprecedented challenges

By Carren Jao

**A**s senior counsel for the Alphabet company's Moonshot Factory, also called X, Ashley Hu's (JD '07) job is

to help make the impossible possible. "[Working here is

a] constant reminder that things that seem like science fiction today could very well be a reality tomorrow," says Hu.

Some of X's out-of-this-world ideas include expanding Internet connectivity to rural and disaster-hit areas via a network of balloons at the edge of space, building the Pony Express of tomorrow using autonomous delivery drones, and generating electricity through the use of kites. X counts self-driving car company Waymo as one of its most prominent projects.

"I feel very lucky to be a part of this place. Every day I work with scientists and engineers to help make their radical ideas possible," says Hu, who studied electrical engineering and computer science at UC Berkeley.

**"[Working here is a] constant reminder that things that seem like science fiction today could very well be a reality tomorrow."** —Ashley Hu (JD '07)



The problems the X team takes on are usually novel and complex, a situation that Hu relishes. “I’m someone who really likes to tackle problems and solve them. Figuring out new ways to solve challenges and finding solutions are really rewarding to me. When you are working on complex projects, like how to launch a balloon-based Internet service, there is no template or precedent for that, so you just have to dive in and figure it out.”

Hu first got into technology as an associate at Wilson Sonsini’s technology transactions department. There, she worked on a number of Google matters with a few Google attorneys and found the company’s teams to be wonderful to work with. When she was contacted by a Google recruiter, she jumped at the opportunity. She spent three years at Google before spotting an opening at X’s legal team. Hu says, “I had always wanted to work at X, so I was thrilled when I got the role.”

Hu credits her Gould education for honing her skills. “There was an emphasis on learning how to be critical and spot issues, to try to look at things from different points of view, and to be creative in proposing arguments or presenting various perspectives. I practice those skills every day,” says Hu.

At Gould, she also met her husband, An-Yen Hu (JD 2007), who is a partner at Goodwin Procter. Though taking one’s work home can be taxing, Hu says marrying someone who also works in the legal field is a blessing. “It has been fun sharing this experience together — from being in law school to studying for the bar, moving to the Bay Area and working at law firms, and now to being parents and raising our girls.”

Though Hu’s work has her thinking about the future, her attention is on the now. “I’m happy where I am,” says the mother of two daughters, ages 5 and 3. “It’s cheesy, but I’m focused on being as present as I can be, day by day, at work and at home.” 📌

## TIME TRACKER

With his award-winning startup, Ryan Alshak (JD 2013) seeks to transform the way lawyers work

By Julie Riggott

**W**hat is the bane of every lawyer’s existence? Certainly one of them is keeping track of billable hours. Lawyer-turned-entrepreneur

Ryan Alshak JD ’13 saw this problem as a business opportunity — and a way to make a difference. He quit a BigLaw job two years ago to launch Ping and transform how lawyers track their time.

“Our purpose is really to change the way that people think about working,” says Alshak, Ping founder and CEO. “It’s to first rid lawyers of the things they hate to do most, such as timekeeping, but the ultimate goal is to allow professionals to understand where their time is being spent and how to optimize that time.”

Instead of giving law firms a data dump, listing the time and duration of every email and phone call on a given date, Ping curates that timesheet. Ping’s AI is able to determine if a given activity is billable, which client matter it relates to and what the legal code is — across all apps, programs and devices. “That’s really what differentiates us from any other player on the market,” Alshak says.

In 2017, Ping was named Legal Tech Startup of the Year at the American Bar Association’s first pitch competition. Since then, the company has seen many developments. “We ran a two-week pilot with the product, and it resulted in a 13 percent revenue lift across pilot users,” Alshak says. “We’re talking about massive economics by changing the way a firm operates.”

Now, Ping is targeting and rolling out the product to their next three or four firms. They also received significant funding and are aggressively growing out the team (from their current team of five software engineers, a designer, a businessperson and AI engineers with PhDs in particle physics).



“Our purpose is really to change the way that people think about working...but the ultimate goal is to allow professionals to understand where their time is being spent and how to optimize that time.” —Ryan Alshak (JD '13)

And a milestone is just on the horizon.

“We are in the process of closing our U.S. partner firm, which I can't go public about yet, but it's one of the largest firms in the world,” Alshak adds.

As a USC Gould student, Alshak was hyper-focused. “I loved law school, I loved the people, I loved learning,” he says. “I also knew my goal was to be a lawyer for the Los Angeles Clippers.”

He achieved his dream as an associate at Manatt, Phelps and Phillips. But “when I was in litigation, there was one thing that always gnawed at me,” he says. “I loved my job, but I didn't feel like I was creating value.”

Alshak, who graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in political science in 2009, admired what some of his fellow graduates had done when they built and sold their own companies. “It wasn't that I was jealous of the financial windfall, although that's

a great byproduct, but it was the notion that they had created value at such a young age,” he says.

He remembers that entrepreneurial spirit at USC. “USC inculcates the entrepreneurial mindset of ‘you are unique and you have the ability to change the world,’ and I believe that my Gould education will pay off many times over.”

As for Ping, Alshak feels good knowing that his invention can help people to “spend every minute with intention.”

“It's something that gets me up in the morning and makes me smile when I'm burning the midnight oil,” he says. “If I can help someone get out of the office one minute earlier to see their wife or kids or mom, that would be everything. This is very personal to me and the team.” 🍷

## MORE THAN A POWER LAWYER

Entrepreneur Dorna Moini (JD 2012) deploys tech to close the justice gap

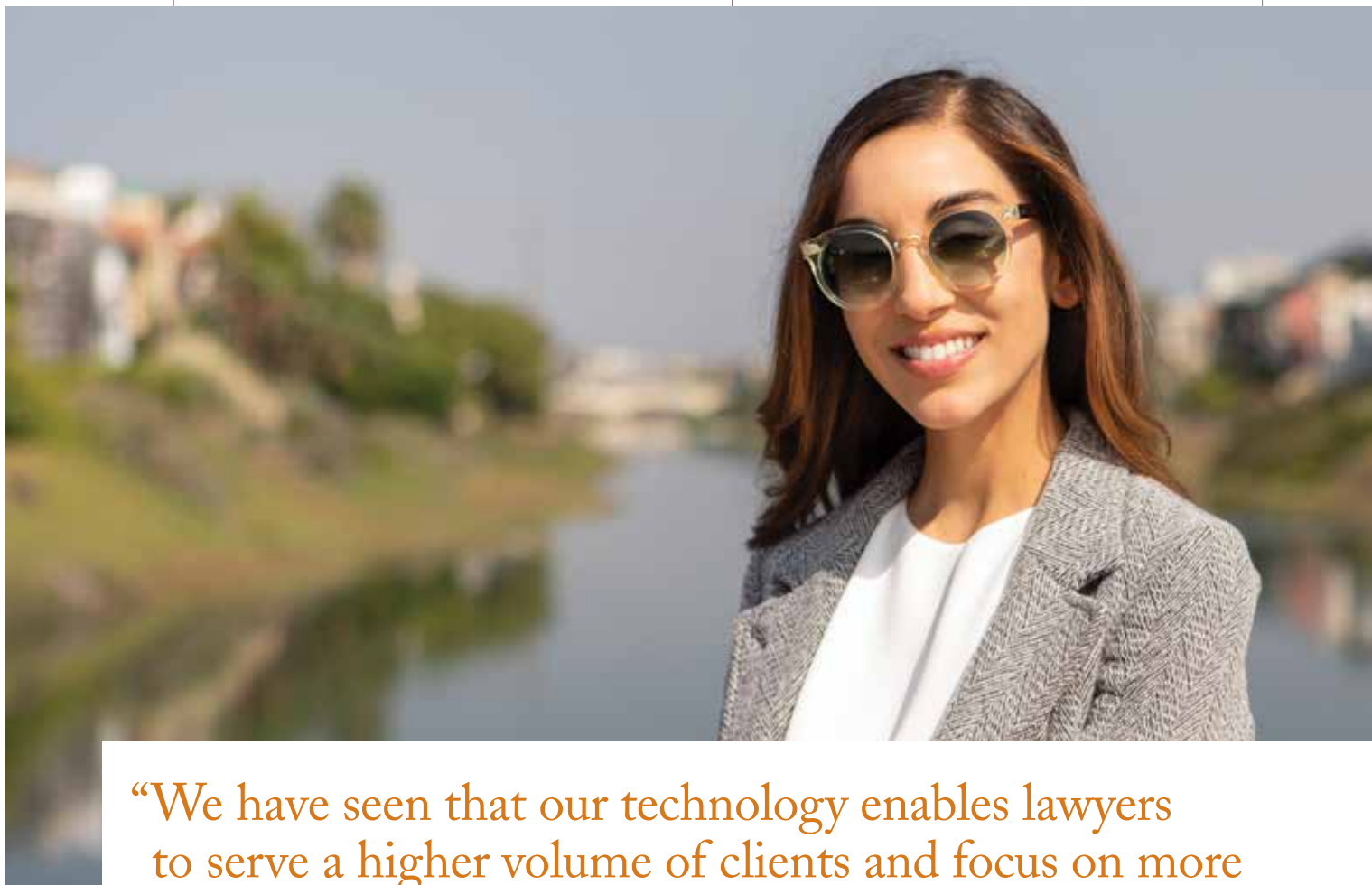
*By Christina Schweighofer*

**W**hen she applied to USC Gould, Dorna Moini JD '12 thought she'd become a human rights lawyer. Things turned out differently; after six years in corporate litigation, she is now a founder

of a technology company, HelpSelf Legal. Her commitment to serving the most vulnerable remains unchanged. "We're using tech to empower those who don't have access to lawyers," she says.

Created late last year in Los Angeles, HelpSelf Legal offers individuals a range of low-cost services on a simple, mobile-friendly platform where it's equally easy to file a restraining order or petition for the expungement of a marijuana conviction. But the company's customizable document automation platform also caters to lawyers, enterprises and legal aid organizations seeking to automate their own business processes.

Legal nonprofits working to close the justice gap are a priority for Moini. "Eighty-six percent of



"We have seen that our technology enables lawyers to serve a higher volume of clients and focus on more challenging, higher-quality legal work." —Dorna Moini (JD '12)

civil legal problems reported by low-income Americans last year received either inadequate or no legal help,” she says, citing a Legal Services Corporation study. By providing workflows for high-volume intake processes, the HelpSelf Legal platform allows organizations offering pro bono services to help more clients.

Moini, who worked for six years in the San Francisco Bay Area as a trial lawyer with Sheppard Mullin and Sidley Austin, emphasizes that her company — the other co-founder, Michael Joseph, is an engineer — doesn’t aim to replace lawyers with technology. “We have seen that our technology enables lawyers to serve a higher volume of clients and focus on more challenging, higher-quality legal work,” she says.

The daughter of immigrants from Iran, Moini says she became passionate about human rights and helping those who can’t help themselves early on; she learned growing up “that the freedoms we have in the U.S. are not necessarily available in other countries.” As an undergraduate student at NYU, she helped draft anti-discrimination and anti-slavery legislation in Mauritania, and at USC Gould she participated in the Post-Conviction Justice Project and the International Human Rights Clinic.

One year after leaving private practice, the trial lawyer turned legal entrepreneur admits that she sometimes misses being in the courtroom and especially the strategizing, teamwork and adversarial nature of the profession. At HelpSelf Legal, she wears many hats, from marketing to sales to product development. “I’m not just a lawyer,” she says. “Through technology, I’m able to impact more court cases than I ever could as a single attorney.”

Meanwhile, there’s also Lola, an English bull terrier — and a rescue dog. “She lies at my feet at my desk waiting for us to give her some equity,” Moini says, “because, like any startup, we have free snacks.” 🐕

## GAME CHANGER BOOSTS VALUE OF NEW INDUSTRY

Sam Goldberg (JD 2006)  
transcends the noise to create  
a bonafide blockchain startup

*By Carren Jao*

**S**am Goldberg JD '06 is a history buff who is making history.

“We have one of the very few functional live blockchain products in the world in any industry,” says Goldberg. Lucidity, the startup he co-founded along with longtime partners Sam Kim and Miguel Morales, uses game-changing blockchain technology and applies it to the fast-paced digital advertising industry to reduce fraud and increase transparency — a problem that costs the industry billions of dollars a year. Lucidity was just named Blockchain Startup of 2018 by The Blocks Awards, which recognize excellence within blockchain technologies.

Goldberg found his path in a roundabout way. He first pursued medicine (along with political science) because he came from a medical family. “I didn’t like it at all,” says Goldberg. But his courses in advanced science allowed him to qualify for and pass the patent bar. He put this to good use clerking and then working for Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP. “This exposed me to a lot of tech litigation, and that’s how I got into technology,” says Goldberg.

A man of infinite curiosity, Goldberg says his exposure to different fields helped him connect the dots when it came to his business. His law background comes in especially handy. “Just having a law degree helps me understand how things play out in business, for better or worse,”



## Despite having access to groundbreaking technology, Goldberg stays vigilant, keeping in mind that better technology doesn't guarantee dominance in the marketplace.

says Goldberg. A true history lover, Goldberg asks, "How can we use history to learn from other people's mistakes?" His understanding of contracts and how businesses function has also increased exponentially.

Goldberg doesn't build the technology, but his role is equally important. It is his task to impart the value of his company's proposition to a sometimes-confused audience. "In the blockchain world, there's a lot of noise and fast money," he says. "It's attracted a lot of people who want to cash in, most notably, Long Island Iced Tea, which changed its name to Long Blockchain Company in 2017 and sent its stock price soaring nearly 500 percent, until its bluff was called."

"People can get away with saying they have blockchain apps where there is no value," Goldberg

explains. "To help us stand out against all the noise, Lucidity is on the blockchain working group for the Interactive Advertising Bureau, the standardizing body for digital advertising. We have a bona fide business, including strong partnerships with both technology companies and advertisers."

Despite having access to groundbreaking technology, Goldberg stays vigilant, keeping in mind that better technology doesn't guarantee dominance in the marketplace. "It's like Betamax vs. VHS. Many people believe Betamax had the superior tech, but VHS eventually won out. Time and time again, we see that a technological product must go hand in hand with good communication." And that's where Lucidity comes in. 🛠️

# Encouraging Innovation

To lead the MET program, Prof. Jonathan Barnett keeps a bird's eye view on media, entertainment and technology law trends

By Greg Hardesty

**Jonathan Barnett hates wearing ties.**

For six years, he had to wear them as a corporate attorney on Wall Street, where he worked on such contract-heavy business negotiations as mergers and acquisitions and private equity deals.

Although he rarely dons neckties these days — he did for his daughter's bat mitzvah, at her request — Barnett's buttoned-up experience as a practicing attorney in corporate law has served him well as director of USC Gould's Media, Entertainment and Technology Law program (MET).

During his seven years at the helm of MET, the program has thrived with a constantly evolving curriculum designed to keep students on the cutting edge of media, entertainment and technology law.

And Barnett's experience as a corporate lawyer — “the intellectual equivalent of building a Lego set,” he explains, “like moving boxes around to create different structures for clients” — has kept the curriculum “practice relevant” and has helped prepare students to hit the ground running once they graduate.



PHOTO: BRETT VAN ORT

“One of our guiding philosophies is we try to deliver courses that are academically rigorous, but also match up with the kind of skills students need to succeed in practice,” says Barnett, who joined the USC Gould School of Law in fall 2006. “Our students can deliver value to employers and clients from day one.”

“One of the reasons, for instance, that we recently added an Information Privacy course is that we noticed there were many law firms and in-house legal departments who now are seeking lawyers who are full-time privacy lawyers,” Barnett says.

Barnett has been able to secure some big names in the media and technology law fields to teach ripped-from-the-headlines courses on such topics as information privacy and digital media transactions.

In one entertainment law course that underscores the real-world thrust of MET’s curriculum, students spend an entire semester working through the documents needed for a hypothetical independent producer who wants to finance, produce and distribute a motion picture. The class is taught by Alan Levine (JD 1971), former CEO of Sony Pictures.

“It gets them right into the weeds of the contracts,” says Barnett, who received a law degree from Yale University.

“It’s not something you typically do in law school,” he adds. “But that’s a signature, really representative type of course of the MET program.”

In 2016, USC Gould became the first top 20 law school to launch a Technology and Entrepreneurship Law certificate program. Currently, 34 JD students and 30 LLM students are enrolled in the program.

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“One of our guiding philosophies is we try to deliver courses that are academically rigorous, but also match up with the kind of skills students need to succeed in practice.”

—Professor Jonathan Barnett, director of USC Gould’s Media, Entertainment and Technology Law program (MET)

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And in February 2019, MET will host a patent reform event that will bring together leading empirical researchers in patent policy with judges and regulators from federal agencies, as well as business leaders.

The one-day conference, “Reforming Patent Reform,” on Feb. 22, 2019, co-organized by Brian Peck, director of the Center for Transnational Law and Business at Gould, will avoid the trappings of typical academics-only workfests, Barnett says.

“We want to grow the thought leadership component of the MET program and create events that allow academia to interface with business people, legal practitioners and policy makers, and *vice versa*,” says Barnett, who grew up in a suburb of Philadelphia but always was interested in living on the West Coast.

“There’s been an active debate concerning patents for at least a decade,” Barnett says. “For example, are there too many patents? Are patents too strong? Are they promoting or discouraging innovation?”

USC Gould’s Media and Entertainment Law certificate program, which has grown continuously since its launch in 2010, currently has 53 JD students and 108 LLM students. The online version was launched in August 2017.

In one class in the program, Richard Friedman, of counsel at DLA Piper LLP, teaches the ins and outs of technology transactions.

“So you’ve got a startup company that wants to monetize their R&D [research and development],” Barnett says. “They have venture capital investors, and there are very unique structures for those investments. The students get pretty deep into the numbers and governance issues to work out the deal with the hypothetical investors.”

One of Barnett’s legal specialties is intellectual property.

“IP courses typically focus on litigation and dispute resolution,” Barnett says. “We cover that as well, but we also cover the business side. The key difference we try to draw out for students is that if you’re in a dispute situation, it’s a win-lose situation. There’s one slice of pizza left. Either I eat it or you eat it, right?”

“But when you’re in a business law situation, we’re at the start of a relationship. So we’re on friendly terms. Otherwise, why would we want to do a deal? That’s a win-win situation. We’re trying to build the pizza pie.

“Working with contracts is not just about learning the contractual jargon. That’s probably the easy part. The other part is trying to learn how to negotiate deals, which is about coming to a reasonable split of that pizza pie.” 🍕

# A Lawyer Who Can Code

Jef Pearlman, interim director of the IP Clinic, brings a background in tech to his teaching

By Anne Bergman

**While working as a software architect in the tech world, Jef Pearlman often heard the lament that there weren't many lawyers who understood technology.** In other words, few lawyers could craft thoughtful policy, and even fewer could lead the charge through the multiplying challenges of adapting the law to the digital age.

So, he decided to become a lawyer.

Now Pearlman is training students in USC Gould's Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic (IPTLC) to advise, problem-solve and secure rights for content creators and startups with IP issues.

With bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science from MIT and a JD from Stanford Law, combined with legal experience on the IP policy side (advocacy group Public Knowledge) and as a litigator for an international law firm (Covington & Burling), Pearlman seems perfectly poised for the task.

He joined Gould this fall as interim director of the IPTLC, which provides pro bono intellectual property legal assistance to filmmakers, artists, game-makers and entrepreneurs. He arrived after four years as the assistant director of Stanford Law's Juelsgaard Intellectual Property and Innovation Clinic, where he supervised and trained law students to represent nonprofits, artists and entrepreneurs in the heart of the Silicon Valley.

Pearlman is enthusiastic about the transition to the Los Angeles area and eager to continue the IPTLC's collaborative efforts with USC's student filmmakers and game developers. "There is a fantastic variety on the content creation side — from documentary filmmakers to studios making blockbuster movies and large publishers. Plus, there's the growth of Silicon Beach-based tech startups."

"Like all clinical teaching, the core of the student experience is representing real clients, whether they are creators or tech policy advocates," he says. "Legal practice is all about helping clients, and working for a client in a



PHOTO: CHRIS FLYNN

clinic gives you a real sense of what that means. In the IPTLC, students will get direct exposure to artists and entrepreneurs who aren't trained to fully think through legal issues, and will help them realize their own professional goals."

In addition to advising on legal issues related to fair use in copyright law, and helping small businesses obtain trademark protection, Pearlman plans to teach his students to understand the sometimes-competing interests of creators in controlling use of their works and of the public in freely participating in culture.

"If you're going to be a good advocate, you need to understand the other side's best arguments and what they want to accomplish. Why do they think you're wrong? What are the merits to their side? For the most part, I want to encourage my students to think critically about all sides of complex issues while still zealously representing their clients."

With both his public interest policy background as a staff attorney at Public Knowledge, and his corporate law firm experience at Covington, Pearlman hopes for opportunities to engage his students in policy work, such as participating in local government efforts to preserve "net neutrality," as well as filing amicus briefs on behalf of artists and entrepreneurs, and members of the media in cases that he says "will define IP law for decades to come."

Overall, he says, he's excited to be teaching at Gould, "I have seven excellent students who are prepared to accomplish great things!" 🛠️

Find out more about the IPTLC: [iptlc.usc.edu/](http://iptlc.usc.edu/)

# Her Curiosity Runs Deep

Professor Dorothy Lund explores untapped topics in corporate law

By Christina Schweighofer

*Prof. Dorothy Lund, who enjoys exploring L.A.'s diverse culinary scene, photographed at the latest gourmet food hall, Fields LA, located adjacent to the L.A. Coliseum.*

PHOTO: BRETT VAN ORT

**When Dorothy Lund was still an associate with Sullivan & Cromwell LLP in New York, she would often question the rationale driving legal rules:** Why do we draft a document like this? Why does this industry work the way it does? But her curiosity would invariably clash with the clock. “You don’t get a lot of time to slow down and think more deeply,” she says about her one-year stint in private practice.

Lund, who this fall joined USC Gould as an assistant professor of law, has since found ways to satisfy her perpetually inquiring mind. A cutting-edge researcher in the field of business and corporate law, she explores untapped topics, such as the corporate

governance implications from the increasing role of institutional investors, or how corporate law may serve as a catalyst for social and organizational change.

A recent paper she co-authored, “Sexual Harassment and Corporate Law,” examines the role of corporate and securities law in regulating and remedying sexual misconduct in the workplace. It looks at sexual harassment by CEOs or top employees as an issue for the corporation and not just for society, with repercussions for worker productivity and stock prices. Lund says: “We [argue], this is a problem that shareholders have something to say about and that the boards of directors need to be talking about.”

Lund, who came to USC Gould via the University of Chicago Law School where she was a lecturer in law and Bigelow Teaching Fellow, received her JD from Harvard University and clerked for two years for judges on the Delaware Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

This fall, she has been teaching one of her favorite classes, Business Organizations. While it covers some

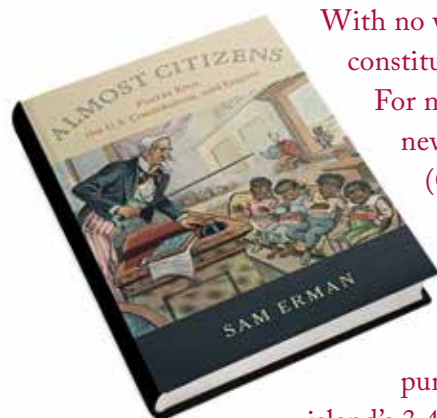


of the theoretical debates in corporate law, her goal for the students is very practical: she wants them to leave “feeling they are ready to hit the ground running in any career in business law they choose.”

Apropos of running — Lund is a passionate runner. “It’s actually how I get ideas,” she says. “If I get stuck on a paper, I’ll go for a long run, and things fall into place.” She and her husband, a chef turned corporate lawyer, also enjoy exploring L.A.’s diverse culinary scene, tasting their way through North African tacos and authentic Chinese food. “We have a long list of places we want to try,” Lund says. A curious mind never rests. 🏃‍♀️

# Who in the World Was Isabel Gonzalez?

In his new book, Prof. Sam Erman considers Puerto Rican citizenship



With no vote in presidential elections, no representation in Congress, and no say on constitutional amendments, residents of Puerto Rico are not like other U.S. citizens. For more than a century, their island's ultimate status has dangled in limbo. In his new book, "Almost Citizens: Puerto Rico, the U.S. Constitution, and Empire" (Cambridge, 2018), USC Gould Prof. **Sam Erman** recounts the stories of an extraordinary set of Puerto Ricans who advocated for their and their island's rights. Their efforts shaped the history of U.S. constitutional law, yet never ended their colonial condition. "The island has very little raw power to use in national debates or governance," he explains. That was before the one-two punch of 2017's Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria pitched the Caribbean island's 3.4 million inhabitants into a desperate humanitarian crisis. Erman spoke with USC Gould's **Gilien Silsby** about his new book and the unique challenges that now face the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

**Almost Citizens involved more than legal scholarship on your part. It's a political history and a family history, too.**

Yes. My book tells the story of how Puerto Rico became a constitutionally acceptable United States colony in the early 20th century. And that century-old system of racist, imperial governance is largely the system that still controls Puerto Rico.

**It all traces back to *Gonzalez v. Williams*. Why is that case important?**

*Gonzalez v. Williams* is a 1904 Supreme Court decision. The case began when Isabel Gonzalez traveled from Puerto Rico to Ellis Island and was turned away as an undesirable alien. She sued, arguing: *I'm not an alien. Annexation of Puerto Rico in 1899 made me an American and thus a citizen.* The court held that Gonzalez indeed was not an alien, and she was allowed to enter. But it didn't decide if she was a citizen.

This equivocation is important. It's how the United States approached imperial governance in the early 20th century. The Court didn't say colonialism as a

whole is OK. Nor did it rule out allowing colonialism to continue. Instead, it envisioned in-between categories. Perhaps Gonzalez was an American who was *not* a citizen. My book uses the case to illustrate how it and other judicial evasions and ambiguities nudged the Constitution and imperial governance toward awkward coexistence.

**How did you learn about Gonzalez's life?**

A decade or so ago, Isabel Gonzalez's great-granddaughter, Belinda Torres-Mary, reached out to me. She was researching her family. We teamed up and made some surprising discoveries.

My favorite find involves Gonzalez's first husband. Family lore held that he was of caballero extraction — of gentlemanly stock. I was skeptical. The records indicated she had kids out of wedlock and could not produce their father. But then Belinda suggested that perhaps Caballero was a last name. A bit of searching proved her right. Gonzalez had married a man named Caballero. He died of tuberculosis at a tragically



Prof. Sam Erman

young age, but not before fathering her first two children. So much for my academic's cynicism. The family's view of their ancestor was the more accurate one. After the case was heard, Isabel Gonzalez settled in Staten Island, then moved to New Jersey. Her extended family is now all over the United States. It's a very American story.

**What other sources did you unearth, and how did they shape your book?**

I used three types of sources: records from the dispute, published letters to the editor and government records. Court documents show that the government kept Isabel Gonzalez out of the country by depicting her as an alien who was not a good mother, worker, wife or daughter. Published letters to the editor that she and her uncle wrote portray the opposite: She was a commendable woman, parent,

employee and spouse. The census and certificates of birth, death and marriage, meanwhile, reveal a woman who led a complicated life. She married several times, fell on hard times, and rebounded to become a proud and honorable matriarch.

Taken together, I think these sources demonstrate how law is not only a "place" where people are portrayed by others, but also where they portray themselves and live out multi-faceted existences.

**What are the main takeaways from your book?**

First, it illustrates how people without formal legal training shape law. It also demonstrates that law changes outside of courts. Lawmakers, bureaucrats, presidents, and even individual litigants and lawyers change what the Constitution means. Lastly, it shows that whenever people thought about law, they were also thinking about race and gender. How judges and others saw the world profoundly influenced what the law was and what it could become.

**Does your book have significance to our current political and historical moment?**

The early 20th century was a time when racism and sexism were very much out in the open. Today, as our politics have grown coarser — when questions of race and sex seem more on the surface — it can be helpful to reflect on how a prior generation's biases affected how judges ruled and politicians legislated.

**After last year's hurricanes threw Puerto Rico's hardships into the national spotlight, has anything changed? Is there support from Congress — and the American public — for statehood?**

Our polarized partisan politics means that the less popular party has strong reasons to oppose statehood, and the more popular party has strong reasons to support statehood.

But it would be unfortunate if either approach were taken in contraposition to the expressed preferences of Puerto Ricans. To make Puerto Rico a state without its people's consent would breed a great deal of resentment and reinforce a sense of colonialism. If Puerto Ricans, however, want the island to become a state, then to hold them on the outside indefinitely would do damage to our nation as a democracy. 🛠️

To learn more, visit: [gould.law/sam-erman](http://gould.law/sam-erman)



## Rothman Scholars come together to honor benefactor

By Diane Krieger

*Back row, standing, from left: Colton Cray '17, Andrew Elken '09, Jessica Walker '10, Kyle Walker '09, Julie Gantz '19, Ariel Prince '20, Jamie Heine '13, Dean Andrew Guzman, Maria Bostandjian '15. Front row, seated: Elizabeth Kimmelman Schwartz '07, Adam Rothman, Douglas Strasnick '05, Amanda Rubenstein '11, Rowley Rice '16.*

PHOTO: CHRIS FLYNN

**Though no blood tie connects this remarkable clan of Rothman Scholars, its members seemed thrilled just to be in the same room.** Some had never met before. And when they did meet, it felt like a family reunion.

"Tonight was an absolute delight," says Colton Cray (JD 2017). "It was such fun to finally meet the older Rothman Scholars. I've read their bios and seen their pictures. A few I've talked with over the phone."

Cray is the 2014 Rothman Scholar — one of 15 USC Gould alumni and current students who can trace their academic lineage to the illustrious Frank Rothman (JD 1951).

This was their first-ever reunion.

Scholarship recipients don't normally feel such kinship with their benefactor. But the late Frank Rothman was no ordinary benefactor, and this is no ordinary scholarship.

"We always call ourselves the Rothman Family," Cray explained. "That's how we consider it."

### **'DO THE VERY BEST'**

Named for the fabled sports and entertainment attorney, the unique merit-based scholarship was first awarded

in 2002 and has gone to USC Gould's top entering 1L every year since then. In addition to a three-year, full-ride tuition benefit, Rothman Scholars receive annual \$2,000 stipends and first-year summer internships in the Los Angeles offices of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.

According to Frank Rothman's son, Steven, the prize pays tribute to his dad's lifelong devotion to USC Gould and his call to "do the very best we are capable of."

The first reunion was an intimate affair, hosted this spring by Dean Andrew Guzman at the Jonathan Club in Santa Monica.

Cray, now a second-year associate with Skadden, had driven across town for the gathering.

Others traveled much farther.

M&A attorney Andrew Elken (JD 2009) arrived from New York that afternoon and would head back early the next morning. "I was going a million miles an hour at work when I got an e-mail from a reunion chair and Chloe Reid [director of development at Gould]. Of course, the Rothman Scholarship means so much to me that I booked a flight immediately," said the Princeton graduate, now a partner with Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP.

Elizabeth Kimmelman Schwartz (JD 2007), who co-chaired the reunion, had flown in from Philadelphia. “This program means a lot to me,” she says, smiling brightly. The other co-chair, Jamie Heine (JD 2013), had come from Washington, D.C., where she’s a litigator with Covington & Burling.

### COOL CAREERS

The first Rothman Scholar, Douglas Strasnick (JD 2005), had come from North Carolina.

Like Rothman himself, who went from winning major court battles for the NFL to running MGM studios to spearheading the antitrust division at Skadden, the Rothman Scholars tend to exceed — and defy — expectations, sometimes charting unusual career paths.

Take Strasnick. A Duke grad, at USC Gould he was a finalist in the Hale Moot Court Honors Competition and, like Rothman, went on to work in sports and entertainment law. Today, he lives in Chapel Hill with his wife and child and works with UNC-TV Public Media North Carolina, the local PBS affiliate, on their product/corporate strategy and business development.

“To go through law school without worrying about student loans or getting a job — [the scholarship] really allows you to focus on your work and your passions”

— Colton Cray (JD '17)

Or take Kyle Barrett (JD 2012), now a senior attorney with the San Diego-based Illumina Inc., a global leader in genetic sequencing instruments. He’d studied biology and health policy at Duke and used his USC Gould education to position himself for his current role with this multi-billion-dollar life sciences company.

There’s entrepreneur Amanda Rubenstein (JD 2011), who runs an Orange County-based academic test prep agency, AR Academics. A University of Pennsylvania grad, she started her thriving business in 2008 — the same year she entered law school.

“What I love about USC Gould is that all my friends

have really interesting careers. That’s very special about this place,” says Kimmelman Schwartz, another UPenn grad. She worked as a litigation associate at Dechert LLP before transitioning into a role as a university advancement executive with Bryn Mawr College. Now, she is the director of alumni and parent engagement at George School, an independent day and boarding school in Pennsylvania.

### TRY EVERYTHING

One of the biggest perks, the Rothman Scholars agree, is having the Skadden first-year summer associate gig locked in. From the late 1980s until his death in 2000, Frank Rothman had built up the firm’s Los Angeles offices, and the scholarship bearing his name is closely tied to it.

“To go through law school without worrying about tuition expenses or getting a job — it really allows you to focus on your work and your passions,” says Cray, who took extra courses at the USC Marshall School of Business while attending USC Gould and spent his final year studying abroad in Lyon, France.

Cray calls his Skadden internship the best summer of his life. “The work exposure was amazing. They rotated me, so I tried everything. And they treated me like the guest of honor every night.”

He returned for a second summer in 2015, and upon graduation, joined Skadden’s corporate team, following in the footsteps of Rothman Scholar and commercial litigator Abraham Tabaie (JD 2008).

But Cray and Tabaie could have gone anywhere.

“The Rothman Scholarship carries a lot of weight,” said Elken, a Manhattan-based corporate partner with Cravath. “People in New York and D.C. know Frank Rothman’s name. It opens a lot of doors. It is truly an honor to be a part of his legacy.”

Along with the benefits come responsibilities. Each current scholar mentors the ones who come after. They also serve on the selection committee, interviewing the year’s candidates and voting for their choice.

Ariel Prince was the 2017 pick. She has already internalized the family creed.

“It’s an honor and an opportunity to do the best you can,” says the UC Berkeley grad. “My goal here is to try absolutely everything I can get my hands on, really stretch myself to take classes outside my comfort zone and see what else is out there.”

Frank Rothman would be pleased. 🍷

Find out more about the Frank Rothman Scholarship: [gould.law/rothman](http://gould.law/rothman)

# Washington Post Publisher

USC Gould alumnus Fred Ryan (JD 1980) urges new lawyers to keep pace with ‘disruptive change’

By Gilien Silsby

*Below: Fred Ryan and Dean Guzman (center) celebrate with representatives from the class of 2018.*

**In a speech that highlighted important parallels between the press and the law, *Washington Post* Publisher and USC Gould alum Fred Ryan returned to campus to offer words of encouragement and observations for the future lawyers.**

While much of Ryan’s career has been in media, he pointed out thorny challenges and urgent responsibilities facing both lawyers and journalists in today’s “fake news” environment.

“Both of these professions are essential to America’s identity as a nation of laws under our unique Constitution,” said Ryan, a member of USC’s Board of Trustees, and a 1980 USC Gould and 1977 USC Annenberg graduate. “Today, however, both of these noble professions are being tested — by the impact of advances in technology, as well as by people deliberately seeking to chip away at these institutions and disrupt our civic order.”

The outcomes of these trials are unpredictable, yet consequential, he added. “It’s no exaggeration to say that how you respond to these challenges — how you choose to practice the vocation you are about to begin — will be felt by your profession and by society for years to come.”

Since Ryan took the helm of the *Washington Post* in 2014, reporters have broken countless stories and served as the ever-present watchdog for representatives in Washington, and won five Pulitzer Prizes. The *Post* has also undergone a digital transformation with a big payoff — the publication has tripled its web traffic and gained a significant national and international presence.

“As new technologies emerge, we want to be on the front line,” said Ryan. “So far, compared to other industries, the legal profession has been relatively shielded from technological disruption. But it would be naïve to assume that the status quo will remain forever. In fact, the legal industry is ripe for transformation.”



# Challenges and Inspires



Ryan also urged graduates to embrace opportunities and keep pace with “disruptive change” that requires innovation and a willingness to experiment.

“[In] reality, most experiments fail. In these failures, though, lie important lessons that may become the seeds of future success,” Ryan said.

Ryan addressed the 206 juris doctor recipients, along with dozens of faculty and hundreds of family and friends. He quipped that if the new lawyers had chosen journalism, they would be hearing Oprah Winfrey, who was delivering the commencement address at USC Annenberg, speak instead of him. “If any of you are live-tweeting these remarks, please use #BetterthanOprah,” he joked.

The commencement ceremony also featured remarks from Dean Andrew Guzman and president of the third-year law class, Amir Shakoorian Tabrizi, who reminded his classmates that they will always be part of the Trojan Family.

“The class of 2018 will fit in perfectly with the larger Trojan Family because we have been, and continue to be, a tight-knit community; one that has been a rock when we needed stability and a soft cushion when we fell.... Together we have woven a community through

the soft, strong bonds of sharing, which weaving has also prepared us for the demands of our profession. A profession that needs lawyers tough enough to push through seemingly impassable barriers, [and] rigid enough not to bend under the weight of battle,” Shakoorian Tabrizi said.

Dean Guzman urged the graduates to be compassionate and aware of their impact on others.

“Recognize that you have an outsized influence on those around you. Recognize that you will often not even know how or when the ways in which you carry yourself and the ways in which you go about your business will find echoes in what others do. Be compassionate, and care for the less fortunate. Your actions will be multiplied by their effect on others.”

In closing, Ryan encouraged graduates to stay true to the core values of their profession.

“Essential to both journalism and the law is an understanding that those who practice these professions occupy positions of immense public trust. We are expected to conduct ourselves honorably, to live and work with civility and integrity. It is incumbent upon both lawyers and journalists to always exhibit fairness — even to those who may not be fair to us.” 🍷

# Standout Ceremony for

Representing 46 countries, Class of 2018 is Gould's most diverse ever

By Diane Krieger

**Decked out in their black master's gowns with purple hoods, 442 graduate and international law students queued up on the Great Lawn of USC Village — a short march from the end of their academic journey. Minutes later, they entered the tent to the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance," cheered by loved ones holding camera phones overhead to record the moment.**

May 11, 2018, marked USC Gould's 15th LLM ceremony, and the inaugural year of three new graduate degrees: the LLM in Alternative Dispute Resolution, the Master of Dispute Resolution and the Master of Studies in Law.

It was USC Gould's most diverse class ever — representing 46 countries.

Appropriately, diversity and inclusion were the evening's major themes.

The keynote speaker was Egyptian diplomat Lamia Mekhemar, consul general in Los Angeles and former ambassador to the Holy See (Vatican).

Mekhemar drew lessons from her own life as "a Muslim woman from the Middle East" to underscore the importance of working toward inclusion. She shared anecdotes about her father and husband, who both faced political repression and accepted the consequences of standing up for what's right.

She lamented the social exclusion of a homeless woman in Alexandria — a ghost from Mekhemar's childhood,

whose cry, "I have no place to stand," still rings tragically in the ambassador's ear. And she celebrated the uplifting story of an Egyptian boy from a poor village who is today an international sports celebrity and unofficial Arab cultural ambassador.

It is a triumph of inclusiveness, Mekhemar said, that Mohammad Salah's humble origins didn't hold him back. The Liverpool soccer star has become "an icon for youth not only in Egypt and the U.K., but all around the world," she said. His inclusion has powerful ripple effects. "The team's fans are chanting: 'If Mo Salah is Muslim, I want to be a Muslim too.'"

USC Gould Dean Andrew Guzman referenced another iconic figure — the American cowboy — in his welcome remarks.

"I want to encourage you to embrace the cowboy nature of American law and the American legal professions," he told the international students, making the Old West archetype a metaphor for the takeaways they should carry into their professional lives.

"As you head out in the world to do the incredible things I know you'll do," Guzman said, "I hope you'll adopt one feature of the best cowboys: be the one in the white hat. Pursue justice, defend those who deserve defending. Respect the rights of every person."



# LLM Commencement

Before the ceremony, the mood on the Great Lawn was both relaxed and jubilant.

Hector and Max Duran had driven from Tecate, Mexico, to attend their brother Edgar's graduation. They'd brought along Barry, an irrepressible pug, and Robin, a beguiling chihuahua, to share the big day. Their mother, father, an uncle and two cousins rounded out the celebratory family circle.

"We're so proud of Edgar," said Hector, an engineer from Baja California. "One hundred percent," echoed Max, a medical student in Mexico.

Some graduates were looking forward to going home.

Xiao Feng "Vincent" Fu is eager to apply his newfound understanding of how Hollywood movies are financed. "It is totally different from other industries," said the 40-year-old Chinese attorney and financial manager, who, upon his return, plans to make a name for himself in the booming Chinese movie business.

Other grads have plans to stay a while longer in America.

Aunchana "Nook" Rawaraka, who earned a business certificate along with her LLM, is actively looking for an internship. Eleven family members had traveled from Vietnam to see her walk, and they'll return without her. Rawaraka, 25, hopes to pass the bar and stay in Los Angeles another year through the OPT temporary work program.

Other grads are planting permanent roots in California.

Andrei Cimpoca, 29, a recent immigrant from the Republic of Moldova with extended family in the San Francisco and Sacramento area, is excited to be interning next year for Superior Court Judge Mary Thornton House. A constitutional lawyer in his homeland, Cimpoca dreams of someday becoming a judge here. "I am studying very hard for the bar," he said, "and sleeping less and less."

Turkish immigrant Dogan Baydan dreams of returning to USC Gould to serve on the faculty.

A member of the inaugural class of USC Gould's new LLM in ADR, the Palm Springs resident has practiced international commercial law for 30 years. But at 53, Baydan said, "I'm changing my path. I was part of the fight before. Now I am going to be part of the solution."

After spending the summer in The Hague, he intends to pursue a doctorate in ADR at a European university. "Probably I will come back and apply for a teaching job at USC. It's my ultimate goal!" he said.

The speeches concluded, the 442 graduates advanced to the podium to receive their diplomas. Designated name readers had practiced pronouncing each name in advance, aided by phonetic cues provided by each student. The roll call went off without a hitch.

Guzman wrapped up the emotional evening with a dry quip: "Diversity is a fabulous thing, but it makes reading names very hard."

A small price to pay for a culture of full inclusion. 🦋



# Another Person's Shoes

Nigerian lawyer Sharon Obuns (LLM 2018) intends to use her new degree to raise awareness about the benefits of mediation

By Christina Schweighofer

*In May, Sharon Obuns graduated from Gould with a Master of Laws in Alternative Dispute Resolution.*

**When her 26-year-old stepbrother went missing seven years ago in Jos, Nigeria, Sharon Obuns, LLM '18 searched for days throughout the city of about 900,000.** At a police station, a woman finally broke the news to her. "Forget about him," the officer said. "He's dead." It was the briefest of statements, a string of words delivered without compassion or comfort.

The encounter haunted Obuns long afterward — and not just because she would never see her stepbrother again. "This shouldn't be how you pass on a message like that," she kept thinking. "There must be a different way of talking to people."



The desire for a more sympathetic form of communication sparked in Obuns an interest in becoming a lawyer in mediation. It has since then only grown stronger. On May 11, she graduated from USC Gould with a Master of Laws in Alternative Dispute Resolution.

The only woman from Bamba, a community of about 35,000, to become a lawyer, Obuns studied at the University of Jos and at the Nigerian Law School in Abuja before spending a year as an intern at the office of

the Chief Justice of Ekiti State. While there, she became keenly aware of a backlog in the courts, with people as young as 13 spending five to seven years in prison waiting to be heard. Already trained in ADR, Obuns rallied support from a few colleagues, and together they were able to negotiate the release of six young inmates.

Half a decade later, her resume includes experience in private practice and as a senior business executive for the government of Cross River State. But she still sees the ADR success during her internship as pivotal. "It enforced my zeal for mediation," she says.

As a student at USC Gould, Obuns faced difficult challenges; with her husband pursuing an MBA degree on the East Coast and funds often short, she was raising two sons, ages 1 and 3. But she also found abundant material to feed her passion.

The class she most benefited from was the Practical Mediation Skills Clinic taught by Professor Richard Peterson where she learned to consider the underlying feelings and the basic interests of the parties, such as if what they really want is an apology rather than money, a financial resolution of the dispute will still leave them feeling dissatisfied. "[Peterson] works with your humanity," she says, "and makes you put yourself in another person's shoes. He makes us realize that everyone is human."

Obuns, who also received the USC Gould Graduate and International Programs Award, plans on staying in the United States one more year. After returning to Nigeria, she wants to work with the Cross River State government to raise awareness about the benefits of ADR processes and of training more people as mediators. "If we get the mediation system running well, it's a win-win," she says. "It will mean faster access to justice and fewer backlogs for the judges."

Reforming the system won't be easy. But Obuns knows that her goal is worth the effort. Her ambition is about more than efficiency for the courts; she wants to change how people talk to each other. 📌

Find out more about Gould's LLM in Alternative Dispute Resolution: [gould.law/llm-in-adr](http://gould.law/llm-in-adr)

**John Anderholt (JD 1968)** passed away on Aug. 19, 2018 at the age of 75. Born in Holtville, Calif., Anderholt grew up on the family farm. He attended Stanford University where he received his bachelors of arts in Economics in 1965. He received a JD from Gould in 1968.

Anderholt was admitted to the Central District Court of California in 1968 and to attorney and consular of the Supreme Court of the United States in 1973. He specialized in corporate and business law, as well as real estate transactional law for over 40 years. He was a licensed real estate broker and member of the California, Riverside County, Los Angeles County and Desert Bar Associations. He was trustee to the College of the Desert from 1984-1989 and Chairman from 1987-1988, and he served on the Board at UC Riverside and the California State Board of Realtors.

From 1970 to 1986, Anderholt was an integral part of the Palm Desert Community Library Association and American Cancer Society, as well as the United Way.

Anderholt is survived by his wife Cynthia Lee Davis-Anderholt, their children and grandchildren.

**Richard Kennedy Guelff (JD 1977)** died on March 16, 2018. Originally from California, he practiced law in Paris and London, and co-authored *Documents on the Laws of War* with Adam Roberts. He is survived by his children, Christopher and Alexandra.

**Lawrence Ross (JD 1957)** passed away on Sept. 2, 2018 surrounded by his family. Ross graduated Beverly High in 1950 and UCLA in 1954. He practiced as an attorney until retiring at the age of 81. Ross is survived by his children, grandchildren and wife Marie.

**Judge Carlos E. Velarde (JD 1959)** died on Sept. 6, 2018. He was 88 years old.

Velarde was born in Los Angeles. In October 1952, he joined the United States Army, assigned to the legal office at Ft. Bliss, Texas, during the Korean War. After serving in the U.S. Army he received his BA degree from Cal State Los Angeles and graduated from USC Law School in 1959.

Velarde's professional career began with the opening of a law office in East Los Angeles. He had a strong commitment to the people of Los Angeles and the Latin community, serving fairly and compassionately there for 10 years and throughout his lifetime.

He was appointed to the East L.A. Municipal Court in 1969 by the then-Gov. Ronald Reagan, who elevated Velarde two-and-a-half years later to the L.A. Superior Court. In 1989, he was contacted by the California Supreme Court and appointed to the State Bar Court serving as a hearing judge and later supervising judge. He served until 2000. After the State Bar, he joined the L.A. Superior Court, sitting on assignment in several courthouses, until his final retirement at the age of 85.

Velarde is survived by his wife of 66 years, Alice, their children and grandchildren.

### **Judge John Henry Sandoz**

**(JD 1970)** passed away on May 21, 2018, with his family at his bedside.

Born in Houston in 1933, Sandoz arrived in Los Angeles at age 3. He attended Jefferson High School, where he played basketball. He is one of the original "Eastside Boys," a group that maintains a strong commitment to Jefferson High School. Sandoz graduated UCLA in 1955 with a degree in mathematics.

Sandoz was drafted into the Army in 1956, where he was an original "rocket scientist," assisting the Army in tracking the trajectory of rockets. He was honorably discharged in 1958 and eventually worked in the aerospace industry.


In 1967, Sandoz enrolled in USC Law School and was admitted to the California Bar in 1971.

After graduation, Sandoz was a Reginald Heber Smith fellow to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Legal Services Society. He then went into private practice and formed a partnership with Irma Brown and the late Elbert T. Hudson, serving as managing partner. Sandoz also was the director of legal services at USC.

Sandoz served his community in many capacities, including: Teen Post Inc. Board of Directors, Policy Planning Committee South Central Regional Center for Developmental Disabilities, and the State Bar Committee for Legal Services to the Poor.

In 1981, Sandoz began his service as a Los Angeles Court Commissioner. In 1995, Governor Pete Wilson appointed him to be an L.A. Superior Court Judge in the Family Law Department. Sandoz proved to be an effective judge and was seldom overturned on appeal. In 2003, he was appointed assistant supervising judge of the Family Law Department. Sandoz retired from the bench in 2006.

Over the years, Sandoz received various recognitions: Constitutional Rights Lawyer of the Year, the Justice Award from the Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law, and USC Association of Black Law School Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement in the legal profession. He was also inducted into the John M. Langston Hall of Fame.

Sandoz is survived by Beverly, who was his wife of 38 years, and their children. 



# HONORING AN ETHICAL IDEALIST

After 40 years, Prof. Ron Garett retires from Gould

By Gilien Silsby

**This spring, Ron Garett, one of USC Gould's most beloved and respected professors was honored and feted at an event that highlighted his 40 years in the classroom.**

Much to the dismay of his students and colleagues, but with their characteristic understanding too, Garett retired in May. He was widely heralded by students, faculty and

alumni as epitomizing and fostering attention to ethical ideals.

"He leads by example and encourages us to be the best that we can be, and in so doing improves all of us," said USC Gould Prof. Greg Keating, who has known Garett for more than 25 years.

Garett's studies included theological ethics and constitutional law, especially in areas where the two fields intersect. He taught thousands of USC Gould students, in courses ranging from Constitutional Law and Law, Language and Values to Law Informed by Faith and Concepts in American Law.

"Ron has been an absolutely indispensable member of our faculty," said Dean Andrew Guzman. "He has served the law school and the university in so many different ways that it is impossible to list them all. Yet what I think makes Ron indispensable is less about his accomplishments, but more about who he is. What matters the most to me is how he has demonstrated how to lead with sensitivity and gentleness, while modeling an openness of spirit and high regard for others."

In addition to his teaching, Garett and his wife, Susan, served as the faculty residents at Terrace, the USC student residence hall for first-year law students. The Garets provided "hominess" and counsel — especially for first-year law students who are prone to stress and uncertainty.

"They don't need enrichment activities. They need friendship, support and hominess. And

*Top: Prof. Ron Garett receives a hug from Prof. Jody Armour, as Mauro Morales (JD 1991) looks on.*

*Bottom: Prof. Garett with daughter, Winnie, and wife, Susan*





Former deans Scott Bice and Dorothy Nelson joined the celebration of Prof. Gareth's career.

PHOTOS: MIKEL HEALEY

that means good home-cooked dinners, not a pizza delivery," Gareth said in his first year as a faculty resident.

"Susan and I will always feel the presence of the law school with us in all that we do" said Gareth. "We are so grateful to students, faculty and staff colleagues,



"What I learned in law school helped create the foundation for a lot of the policy and legal analysis I do today," Morales said. "I still think about a class I took with Professor Gareth. He asked us to look beyond the law — and at humanity: How do you use the law to better the community and, even more importantly,

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**"Ron has been an absolutely indispensable member of our faculty. He has served the law school and the university in so many different ways that it is impossible to list them all."**

—Andrew Guzman, USC Gould School of Law Dean


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and committed deans, who make ours a supportive and fostering community. We give our heartfelt thanks to each of you and want you to know how much you mean to us."

Mauro Morales (JD 1991), staff director for the bipartisan U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in Washington, D.C., credits much of his success to his law education at USC. He especially remembers Gareth's Law, Language and Values class.

better people's lives? I have always remembered that, and it really guides me."

Longtime colleague and friend USC Gould Prof. Jody Armour said that Gareth inspired him both personally and professionally and that the two shared a mutual love for the music of Ice Cube and Tupac Shakur.

"Ron is both one of the most profound thinkers and humble human beings I know," Armour said. "He lit a fire in me." 

## 2018 HONOR ROLL

**Zachary Bulthuis (JD 2001)** joined Akerman LLP as a partner in their Labor and Employment Practice Group. Bulthuis represents management in labor and employment disputes with clientele ranging from Fortune 500 companies to local businesses and individuals.



**Jim Burgess (JD 1990)**, a partner at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter and Hampton LLP, was appointed to serve as president of the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles.

**David Colgan (JD 2009)** co-authored *The Green Bundle: Pairing the Market with the Planet*, with environmental economist Magali Delmas.

Gov. Jerry Brown nominated the Hon. **Thomas DeSantos (JD 1981)**, a Kings County Superior Court Judge since 2003, to the Fifth District Court of Appeal.

**Cameron Edwards (JD 2017)** joined Hadley Bajramovic and will focus on defending people in deportation proceedings before immigration judges and representing clients in appeals before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Federal Courts of Appeal.



Gov. Jerry Brown named the Hon. **Miguel T. Espinoza (JD 2007, pictured right with USC Gould Prof. David Cruz)** to the Los Angeles Superior Court bench. Judge Espinoza served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney since 2017. He was a deputy district attorney at the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office from 2008-17.



**Mark Finkelstein (JD 1994)** joined Umberg Zipser LLP as a partner in the firm's Intellectual Property Practice Group, which is dedicated to identifying, procuring, shepherding and defending clients' intellectual property rights.

**Jessica Ghirado Gordon (JD 2012)** was inducted as the president of the Los Angeles County Bar Association's (LACBA) Barristers.



The June issue of *Los Angeles Lawyer*, LACBA's magazine, featured **Maria Hall (JD 2003)** and the Hon. Mark A. Juhas who shared their thoughts on the use of limited scope legal assistance.

**Whitney A. Hodges (JD 2010)** was recognized by *Continental Who's Who* as a Pinnacle Lifetime Member in the field of law in recognition of her role as an attorney at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter and Hampton LLP.



**Olivia Hudnut (JD 2018, pictured)** and **Talia Yektafar (JD 2018)** both received post-graduate fellowships from the California Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (CAL-ABOTA).



The *Los Angeles Business Journal* (LABJ) named **John Iino (JD 1987)** to the LA500, an annual list of the top influencers in the region. Iino is partner and global chair of Diversity & Inclusion at Reed Smith and chair of USC Gould's Board of Councilors.



**Jaime Lee (BA 2006/JD 2009)** chief executive of Jamison Realty Inc., was named to the LABJ's LA 500 list. Lee also serves as president of the USC Alumni Association Board of Governors.



The Hon. **Nora M. Manella (JD 1975)** was appointed presiding justice, Division Four of the Second District California Court of Appeals. Judge Manella has been an associate justice since 2006. Prior to that, she served as a U.S. district judge for the Central District of California, where she sat for eight years.

**Sean Matsler (JD 2003)** joined Cox, Castle and Nicholson LLP as its newest land use partner.

**Bill Peterson (JD 1975)**, a partner in Snell and Wilmer's Reno office, was honored by the State Bar of Nevada as the recipient of this year's Presidential Award. Peterson was recognized in a video presentation at the bar's annual meeting in Chicago.

Gov. Jerry Brown named the Hon. **Sheila Recio (JD 1998)** to the Orange County Superior Court. Judge Recio has served as a commissioner at the Orange County Superior Court since 2016. Prior to that, she served in several positions at the Orange County Superior Court, including deputy general counsel, senior research attorney and counsel to the presiding judge.

**Albert Reyes (JD 2001)** joined Kutak Rock's national public finance practice group and will be resident in the firm's Los Angeles and Irvine offices. Reyes is a public finance and infrastructure lawyer who serves as bond counsel, disclosure counsel and underwriters' counsel on a variety of matters.

**Simone Riley (JD 2014)** has rejoined Hahn and Hahn LLP as an associate in the Business Practice Group, focusing on general corporate matters, real estate and finance. Riley returns to the firm after working at Seward and Kissel LLP in New York for two years.



President Donald Trump appointed **David Short (JD 1979)** to serve as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Aviation and International Affairs.

The Hon. **Autumn D. Spaeth (JD 2000)** was sworn in as a U.S. magistrate judge for the Central District of California. Spaeth will sit in Santa Ana, the Court's Southern Division. Before her appointment as a magistrate judge, Judge Spaeth was a founding partner of Smiley Wang-Ekval LLP in Costa Mesa.

**Seth Stodder (JD 1995)**, a former U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) assistant secretary for border, immigration and trade policy and assistant secretary for threat prevention and security, joined Holland and Knight as a partner in the firm's Los Angeles office. He will represent clients on a wide variety of matters, including transactions before the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), international trade and customs issues, immigration and visas, cybersecurity and data privacy, government investigations and national/homeland security.

**Shari Swanson (JD 1985)** authored her first book, *Honey, the Dog Who Saved Abe Lincoln*, which is set to be published by Harper Collins/Katherine Tegan Books in spring 2019.



**Olivier Theard (JD 2001)** received Sheppard Mullin's 2018 Diversity & Inclusion Award, which was created to recognize an individual or team of attorneys in the firm for their commitment to diversity and inclusion programs and initiatives at the firm and in the legal profession.



The *Daily Journal* selected **Lindsay Toczylowski (JD 2008)** as one of their Top California Lawyers Under 40 for 2018. Toczylowski is executive director of Immigrant Defenders Law Center, a next-generation social justice law firm based in Los Angeles.

**Michael Vaughn (JD 1987)** has joined Enterprise Counsel Group and will lead their expanding M&A and transactional practice. Vaughn comes to ECG with over 30 years experience, including service as general counsel for two large companies. He is also a City Council member in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, where he currently serves as mayor.



Pillsbury Winthrop appointed **Stacie Yee (JD 2002)** as the firm's executive chair of diversity & inclusion. Yee is a litigation and employment partner based in Los Angeles.



## LAW LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

The USC Gould Law Leadership Society is a community of the law school's most generous benefactors. This group, which includes more than 350 Gould alumni and friends from around the world, is dedicated to the law school's success and makes it possible for USC Gould to thrive as an elite law school. Members support USC Gould with annual gifts of \$1,000 or more, or \$500 or more for graduates of the last five years. Their gifts provide critical funding for scholarships, clinical education, student organizations, new initiatives and other critical needs. For more information about membership, visit [gould.usc.edu/leadership](http://gould.usc.edu/leadership) or call (213) 821-3560.

## 2018 LAW FIRM CHALLENGE

USC Gould thanks the 330 alumni at 42 firms and companies who supported the law school this year through their participation in the 2018 Law Firm Challenge. We extend a special thank you to the 10 winning firms that reached 100% alumni participation.

### WINNING FIRMS AND ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES

#### **Feinberg, Mindel, Brandt & Klein**

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**If your firm is not already a participant, we hope you will join us for the 2019 Law Firm Challenge!**  
**For more information, contact Meghan Hoover, Assistant Director of Annual Giving and Stewardship,**  
**at (213) 821-6337 or [mhoover@law.usc.edu](mailto:mhoover@law.usc.edu).**



# Donor Annual Report

## 2017-2018

**USC**Gould  
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Thank you for your support of the USC Gould School of Law. We strive to maintain accuracy in the preparation of the Donor Annual Report. This report includes gifts recorded as of June 30, 2018. If your name is misspelled, omitted or incorrectly listed, we sincerely apologize. Please contact us in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 213-821-3560 with any questions or to inform us of any errors.

## LEADERSHIP DONORS

*This list acknowledges individuals who made gifts, new pledges and pledge payments of \$1,000 or more from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.*

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"Attending Gould is the best professional decision I've made and may be the best personal decision as well since I met my husband there! In addition to receiving an excellent legal education, I've also benefited from the prestige that comes from having graduated from Gould and from being a member of one of the best-known and most-established alumni networks in existence. Being a Gould graduate is really something special. I couldn't be more proud of my school, and I am happy to give back and to offer my support."

**AMY ALDERFER (JD 1999)**, Member, Cozen O'Connor  
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"As a first-generation law student, I really did not know what to expect from law school or a legal career. I was lucky that I was able to find student mentors to help guide me through, especially as a 1L, but looking back now I would have greatly benefited from a program like the First Generation Professionals Program. I'm happy to support programs and scholarships like the First Generation Professionals Program Scholarship and the Latino Law Students Association Scholarship that help students find their place and learn the necessary skills to succeed in law school and beyond."

**HOPE GARCIA (JD 2007)**, Head of Global BD & Strategic Partnerships, Tumblr



"I am pleased and inspired to support the prestigious educational institution that supported me five decades ago. I will never forget that I was able to attend law school because of the generosity of the great alumni who financially supported USC Gould. It is only appropriate that I now do the same. I strongly believe in helping a university that completely changed the trajectory of my life for the better.

I am proud to share that my daughter, Alexis, and her husband, Chris Nilsen, each graduated from Gould (in 2006 and 2007 respectively). Each has been very successful in their careers. I am grateful to USC Gould for the superior education that they also received.

Please join me in supporting our school to the extent you are able to do so. Your generosity can make a difference in the lives of others who follow in your footsteps."

**ALEX ALONZO (JD 1974)**

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"I remember being a part of USC's Post-Conviction Justice Project while I was in law school and obtaining my very first 'win' for a client in federal court. Since I graduated, USC's clinical programs have grown tremendously and across multiple legal issues. USC's Immigration Clinic is also doing great things in the community for people who need assistance navigating through our complex and ever-changing immigration laws — from assisting teenage sisters with albinism from Tanzania who sought asylum after being hunted for their 'magical' limbs, to helping USC students, faculty and staff with renewing their DACA applications. In light of changing immigration policy, USC's Immigration Clinic is timely, relevant and top-notch. I give to these programs so students can help others in need of help with real legal issues."

**AMBER FINCH (JD 2002)**, Partner, Reed Smith



“My family’s connection to USC goes back a bit. I have an uncle who attended USC back in the late ’40s/early ’50s, and my two older brothers and I followed in the 1970s. And now it continues, as my niece recently completed a master’s in public policy. My continuing connection to the law school is a result of fond memories of my time there and the career opportunities it gave me — the faculty, my fellow students, learning a new way of thinking and a new vocabulary, and sharing it all with people from different backgrounds and life experiences. The work was hard, but the experience was fun. My education allowed me to pursue a challenging and exciting career in law, then banking, and finally in commercial real estate. One of the best things is that I get to use it all every day. Every step has helped me to progress to the next career opportunity, and all of my experiences inform the way I solve problems for my real estate clients today. The law school gave me that, and I am grateful.”

**DAOUD A. AWAD (JD 1984)**, Managing Director, Jones Lang LaSalle

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“What inspired me to support Gould was seeing how generous and supportive Gould alumni were during my time in law school. I remember attending the mentor lunch as a 1L and being pleasantly surprised to see alumni from all different fields who returned to the law school to share their knowledge with students. What inspires me the most is seeing how generous Gould alumni are with their time. It makes me proud to be a part of such a tight-knit community, so I wanted to give back to be a part of that tradition. Additionally, I genuinely credit Gould for helping me get to where I am in my career. There were so many resources available to me at Gould, such as the fantastic Career Services Office. I support Gould so that future students can have the same opportunities that I did.”

**THUC-VY NGUYEN (JD 2017)**, Associate, Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP



“The best part of our law school experience was meeting each other! Aside from that, Gould was a special time in our lives. We pursued academic interests while laying foundations for our careers in law. Kristina received academic scholarships, which were funded by donors, as both an undergrad and law student at USC, so it is important to us that others receive similar opportunities. Graduating from USC provided opportunities to us, particularly early-career opportunities, to work at premier organizations and further our development as lawyers. When we think of Gould, one word that comes to mind is ‘personal’. The smaller size of the school compared to some others has innumerable benefits, from getting to know professors to forming bonds with other students. This feeling of community carries on well after graduation.”

**MARK BRUBAKER (JD 1997)**, Senior Vice President and Senior Counsel, Capital Group

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# IMPRESSIVE STUDENTS JOIN CLASS OF 2021

USC Gould recruited one of its best and brightest first-year classes in 2018, a group that boasts the highest median grade point average in school history, the broadest geographic representations in a decade and an impressive median LSAT score.

In addition to enrolling a stellar class of 200 students, Gould saw an 18 percent surge in first-year applications — more than double the national application volume increase of 8.7 percent.

The class is highly diverse with 38 percent from underrepresented minority groups and 10 percent first-generation college students. For the first time ever, women make up 55 percent of the first-year class.

The Class of 2021 is highly competitive: the median GPA increased to 3.78, the highest in the school's history. The median LSAT also rose to 166. 📌

—Gilien Silsby

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“An unprecedented number of applications made 2018 a historic year for us. A record number of prospective law students applied — a 34 percent increase in just three years. This enabled us to pick the very best students. I am extremely proud of the caliber of this class.”

Andrew Guzman, dean, USC Gould School of Law

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# What Will Your Trojan Legacy Be?

From donor-advised funds to lead trusts to gifts of cash, stock and other assets, there are numerous ways to leave a legacy. Richard Chernick (JD 1970) has served as chair of the USC Gould Board of Councilors and currently chairs the Judith O. Hollinger ADR Program Advisory Board. He and his wife Karla have also made generous unrestricted planned gifts to the law school. Read more about Richard's gift at [gould.giftplans.org](http://gould.giftplans.org).

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

**"I trace my career to USC. The idea of giving back for my career and for all the help that I received — I really feel pays a debt."**

— RICHARD CHERNICK JD '70

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### **SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON**

February 12, 2019  
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February 22, 2019  
*USC Gould School of Law*

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March 1, 2019  
*Norris Cinema Theatre*

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*USC Gould School of Law*

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#### **2019 TAX INSTITUTE**

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