

USC MAGAZINE Law

FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF THE **USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW** ISSUE 16 | SPRING/SUMMER 2020



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

*Shaping public discourse and
safeguarding the rule of law*

USCGould



To every member of the Gould Trojan Family, I hope that you, along with your families and loved ones, are healthy and safe during this public health crisis. These past few months have brought enormous societal changes, at a scale and speed that none of us have experienced. As things change all around us, it is more important now, than ever before, to hold true to our vision and values as a law school. We are as determined as ever to achieve our scholarly mission and provide our students with an exceptional legal education, while also reaffirming our commitment to the advancement of justice and the rejection of racism and bigotry in all its forms.

This magazine issue comes at a unique time — and for so many, a difficult one. However, in this moment, I have seen example after example of our community coming together and offering support to one another. I am inspired by the way our law school has shown care, concern and compassion when it is needed the most. That's the true character of the Gould community.

Beginning with our issue's theme of *civic engagement*, several of our faculty have lent their knowledge to national and international court decisions through influential amicus submissions, including Prof. Hannah Garry who spoke before the International Criminal Court in The Hague. On the topic of faculty expertise, elections scholar and Vice Dean Franita Tolson has been tapped

by Facebook to assist with identifying voter suppression efforts in the 2020 races. You can also read more about forthcoming books from Professors Jody Armour and David Cruz in this issue. Additionally, Prof. Elyn Saks and the Saks Institute are partnering with Pearson Education's national mentorship program to support students with mental health challenges to excel academically and professionally.

Gould alumni are also among the leaders in promoting civic participation. In this issue, you'll read about Jeff Ayeroff (JD 1971), who founded Rock the Vote, and Mandana Dayani (JD 2007), who started I am a voter. Another pioneering alum is Michael L. Williams (JD 1979), whose 40-year career as a public servant includes practicing as a federal prosecutor, being appointed Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education, becoming the first and only African American elected to a statewide executive position in Texas history as a member of the Railroad Commission and later heading up the Texas Education Agency.

In addition, this issue features a special section on *Clinical Perspectives*, highlighting the impressive work of our clinics. Notably, our Post-Conviction Justice Project celebrates 40 years of leading the charge in education and policy reforms; the International Human Rights Clinic helped Syrian refugees escape persecution; and the Immigration Clinic collaborated with Children's Hospital Los Angeles and AltaMed to provide legal-aid services for young patients whose families are seeking asylum.

Other inspirational stories you can find in this magazine include a feature on educator and philanthropist Barbara Bice, who recently made a \$2 million estate gift that supports the Public Interest Law Foundation's 30-year legacy of service and education. We also spotlight Prof. Thomas Griffith, who retired this year — the article honors his nearly four decades of law school leadership and outstanding dedication to students. I also invite you to read about: Amy Forbes (JD 1984), whose legal skills helped bring SoFi Stadium into reality; three students from the Class of 2020 who earned prestigious public interest law fellowships; and the 25th anniversary of the Trope and Trope Fellowship at the Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law. Sadly, our dear friend and Gould alum Sorrell Trope (JD 1949), namesake of the fellowship, passed away in May.

In closing, I wish everyone all the best as we navigate this critical time. Whether we are together or apart, we remain one Gould Trojan Family.

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

Andrew T. Guzman
Dean and Carl Mason Franklin Chair in Law,
Professor of Law and Political Science



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PROF. EMILY RYO AWARDED FELLOWSHIPS TO SUPPORT IMMIGRATION RESEARCH



Emily Ryo, professor of law and sociology at USC Gould, was named an inaugural fellow by The Justice Collaborative Institute and an Access to Justice Scholar by the American Bar Foundation in partnership with The JPB Foundation. The fellowships will provide Ryo with varied opportunities to further her academic research into the nature and impacts of immigration enforcement and detention, as well as access to justice for immigrants facing deportation.

Ryo says she sees The Justice Collaborative fellowship as a chance to further her current research focused on immigration detention, and the ways that the immigration enforcement system becomes entangled with the criminal justice system.

“Because of these deep ties between criminal justice and immigration enforcement, efforts to dismantle the mass incarceration system must also address what is happening

with immigration detention,” she says. “My hope as an inaugural fellow at the institute is to further that goal by advancing a greater public understanding of the causes, conditions and consequences of immigration detention.”

The ABF/JPB Foundation scholars program will enable Ryo to continue her research on immigration courts, and the gap between the supply and demand for legal services for immigrants facing deportation. Her research also seeks to better understand the impact of legal representation on case outcomes.

“My goal as an Access to Justice Scholar is to advance a new and broader understanding of barriers to access to justice for immigrants,” Ryo says. “Understanding whether and to what extent the impact of legal representation might be limited or amplified by the decision-maker who happens to be assigned to a case has significant policy implications for the

“Because of these deep ties between criminal justice and immigration enforcement, efforts to dismantle the mass incarceration system must also address what is happening with immigration detention.”

—Emily Ryo

training of immigration judges and for ensuring fair processes and outcomes in immigration cases.”

The Justice Collaborative Institute was founded in 2019 to bring together top scholars around the country for research on and public engagement with justice reform. The Access to Justice Scholars Program supports leading scholars in their research with networking opportunities and mentorship from experienced senior scholars.

Ryo, a professor at USC Gould since 2013, received a JD from Harvard Law School and a PhD in sociology from Stanford University. 📖

—Ruby Callahan



THE FACE OF THE FACULTY

Prof. Rebecca Lonergan navigates change as President of the Faculty for the USC Academic Senate

When Professor Rebecca Lonergan was elected President of the Faculty by USC's Academic Senate in May 2019, she landed in the middle of a historic administrative reshuffling and, most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.



"It's been a very steep learning curve," Lonergan says. "I've essentially been the face of faculty during a time of great change at the university, which has been incredibly rewarding but also incredibly challenging."

Lonergan jumped into working with an entirely new senior leadership team, led by USC's first female president, Carol L. Folt, and Provost Charles Zukoski. Lonergan helped them understand USC's history and academic culture, and brought them up to speed on faculty views on key issues.

Amid COVID-19, Lonergan adjusted her leadership approach accordingly.

"When we're making urgent decisions about the COVID-19 crisis — [such as] the recent decision about changing grading policies — there's no way I can consult all 7,000 faculty," she says. "It's a lot of pressure to have to render the faculty opinion, and I try to consult as many as I can, but there are times when you just have to make the call."

Lonergan's previous service on the Academic Senate helped inform her decisions.

"When I think about what position the faculty president should take on an issue, I think about what I know from my past experience about generally held beliefs, values and policy positions of faculty at USC," she says.

Lonergan's experience as a lawyer positioned her well for the role. "Lawyers are trained to be advocates, and as president, a large piece of what I do is advocate to the administration for the things that the faculty want to see happen," she says.

Despite the challenges of shared governance, Lonergan recommends all faculty get involved with the Academic Senate.

"It's incredibly rewarding because it allows you to get to know all sorts of different people from across the university, and you can make a difference in their lives — you have a role in helping figure out USC's future," she says. 🍷

—Yulia Nakagome

GOULD QUOTABLES



"Our findings suggest that criminal justice reforms that reduce the number of individuals in jails and prisons may generate new opportunities for struggling counties to fill their empty jail beds with a new supply of immigrant detainees."

EMILY RYO, co-writing on immigrant detention, the San Francisco Chronicle (via The Conversation), Feb. 11, 2020.



"Overall it seems to me the exact opposite of what we need, and I think we have to trust the public if we're going to call the public to be a large part of this response."

ALEX CAPRON on city planning for pandemics, NPR, April 2, 2020.



"While health care is being short-changed, the aerospace industry and aviation are the big winners in the stimulus package."

MICHAEL SIMKOVIC on the coronavirus stimulus package, Bloomberg Law Insights, April 14, 2020.

For more Gould Faculty in the News highlights, visit: <https://gould.usc.edu/faculty/news/>

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST CLASS OF PUBLIC INTEREST SCHOLARS

This year, USC Gould congratulates its first class of Public Interest Scholars. The program was established in 2017 to build on USC Gould's longstanding tradition of service in public interest law. Public Interest Scholars are supported by merit-based scholarships, awarded after admission, as well as benefits including access to the Public Interest Law certificate and mentorship opportunities, assistance from faculty and career services to secure employment in public interest legal work for the 1L summer, a guaranteed stipend to support unpaid 1L summer employment, eligibility to secure a stipend during 2L summer employment if working in qualifying public interest employment, and more. Scholars are selected on the basis of merit and demonstrated commitment to public interest work. Selection criteria include strong academic achievement and significant accomplishments in the fields of public interest work or government service. We congratulate Erika Ingram, Nassim Moallem, Jared Osborne, Ricca Prasad, Ariana Stobaugh and Vivian Zambrano and wish these outstanding students success as they pursue their career goals.



A THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE LEADS TO USC GOULD

Camille Brown, 2019 Frank Rothman Scholar, sets sights on career in copyright law

Camille Brown has been on an eight-year journey to answer the question: “How do artists working in digital media get paid?” This pursuit culminated with her acceptance to USC Gould School of Law as the 2019 Frank Rothman Scholar.

As an undergraduate at Stanford University, Brown majored in science, technology and society, with a self-designed concentration in art, information technology and society. She wrote her thesis on how digital media technology shaped the evolution of French hip-hop, and discovered the profound impact copyright law had on hip-hop both in France and the United States.

Intrigued by copyright law’s role in emerging technologies, Brown worked in brand strategy at two Silicon Valley start-ups after graduation, followed by a position at the Stanford Alumni Association as the organization’s liaison to Stanford’s Trademark and Licensing Committee.

“These roles deepened my initial interest in copyright law as I learned how businesses partner together to manage their brands across email and social media campaigns,” she says.

After speaking to digital artists about how copyright law shaped their livelihoods, she was convinced law school was the next step, and USC Gould was at the top of the list.

When Brown learned she had been selected as the 2019 Frank Rothman Scholar, it took a full five minutes for the news to sink in. She had been impressed by the collegiality and intellectual firepower of the USC faculty, students and staff, and it was a delight to learn the feeling was mutual.

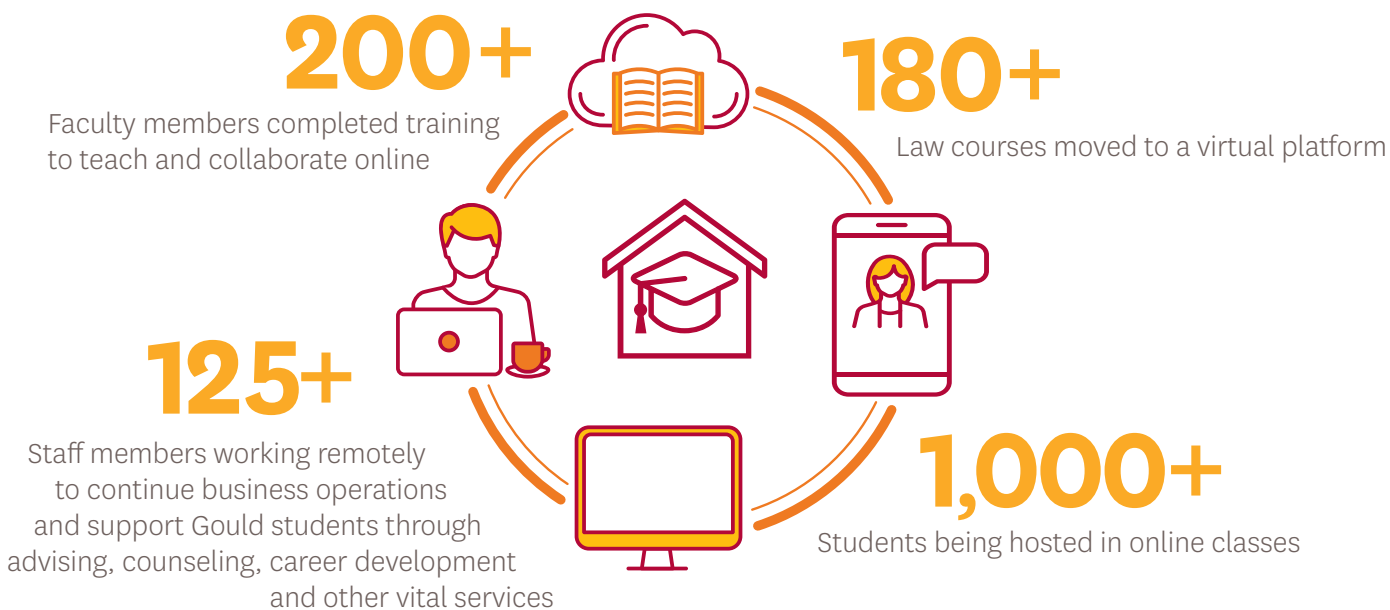
After her mother passed away in 2014, Brown thought law school was beyond her reach, but her dream came true thanks to the Rothman community, her family, friends and partner.

“I hope to pay their generosity forward in the years to come,” Brown says. 🍷



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Within days, all facets of USC Gould worked together to prepare for working apart, in the wake of the COVID-19 public health pandemic.





FRIENDS OF THE COURT

USC Gould law professors lend their expertise to national, international court decisions

By Leslie Ridgeway

When they're not sharing their knowledge in the classroom or through research, USC Gould School of Law professors bring their expertise to bear by filing amicus curiae briefs, informational documents with the potential to influence court decisions all over the world.

Take Professor Hannah Garry's amicus brief, submitted before the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague during an appeals hearing filed by the prosecution

rights law when it rejected an investigation into war crimes allegations. The brief — Garry's first — pointed to evidence that torture had been allegedly practiced by Afghan national security forces as well as the U.S. military and CIA since 2003.

In early March, following the appeals hearing where Garry and other amici presented their briefs, the court reversed the prior decision, and the chief prosecutor opened an investigation. The news was carried internationally.

"It was an honor and privilege to participate in these important proceedings on behalf of victims who have waited far too long for justice." —Hannah Garry

and victims of alleged war crimes in Afghanistan. Garry's brief, submitted in early December 2019 together with former United Nations special rapporteurs, asserted that the pretrial chamber had incorrectly interpreted international criminal and human

"It was an honor and privilege to participate in these important proceedings on behalf of victims who have waited far too long for justice," says Garry, director of the International Human Rights Clinic at USC Gould.

Also making headlines was a federal case decision in early December 2019 granting American Samoans the rights of citizenship. Professor Sam Erman submitted an amicus brief in the case, which has been stayed pending appeal, but could have implications for residents of U.S. territories desiring citizenship rights, such as voting or choosing a law enforcement career. He was quoted in a New York Times story on the decision.

Erman's research focuses on birthright citizenship and other guarantees granted by the 14th Amendment, making him an appropriate expert for this case. He has co-written approximately a dozen briefs for past cases.

"The kind of amicus briefs I do offer expertise from disciplines outside the law and then tell the court, maybe you'll find our expertise helpful," he says. "Most of my briefs speak to issues the courts have previously used history to address. When a new case arises, I provide information on what happened in the past that I think a judge might find helpful."

For Professor Jef Pearlman, director of the USC Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic (IPTLC), amicus briefs can serve dual purposes as teaching tools for students in the clinic.

"We focus on not being duplicative and trying to communicate something that will matter to the court's decision-making, whether it's a legal avenue they haven't thought of or facts about the impact [of the case] that hasn't entered their thinking ... making them aware of the consequences of the decision," Pearlman says.

Pearlman and his students recently filed an amicus brief in the case *Georgia v. Public.Resource.org Inc.*, argued late last year before the Supreme Court of the United States. The IPTLC team was part of a group of amici including 39 law students, 24 practitioners and 38 legal educators and law professors. All have a personal interest in the case, brought by the State of Georgia against Public.Resource.Org Inc. for copyright infringement after the company scanned and



posted the state's legislative code, including the state's official annotations. Access to government documents has ramifications for law students and legal scholars.

"It was so different from most other briefs because you're trying to gather the personal experiences and communicate the desires and beliefs of a broad group of people," Pearlman says. "Whenever you're writing a brief that will be signed on to by more than a couple of people you have to recognize this is a diverse group with different viewpoints, and give the court something they will find useful that communicates a single, shared viewpoint. That is the challenge and the power of it."

SCOTUS was scheduled to decide on the case in summer 2020.

"The kind of amicus briefs I do offer expertise from disciplines outside the law and then tell the court, maybe you'll find our expertise helpful." —Sam Erman

Law professors and attorneys learn of opportunities to file amicus briefs through the news and relationships they have developed over the years. In Garry's case, victims' attorneys reached out to her and other professors of international law. She then worked with three professors who were former U.N. rapporteurs, investigators working on behalf of the U.N. The timeline was accelerated — Garry only had five days to work

To the right:
Hannah Garry
Below: Sam Erman





on the brief — and when the ICC gave the choice to submit a full brief in writing or present arguments in court in December, the decision was to present in court, and Garry was soon on her way to The Hague. She made finishing touches to her presentation on the flight to The Netherlands.

“I loved it,” Garry says of her participation. “I’ve spent most of my working life as a practitioner working and writing for judges. It felt very comfortable for me. I know what’s helpful in these kinds of tribunals. The three other professors were happy that I was part of the team because they didn’t have the experience I had.”

Writing an amicus brief requires careful consideration of what the court will do with the information that is given to them, as well as the court’s expertise.

“The outside expert needs to be helpful, but isn’t the one deciding how the information is applied,” Erman says. “The aim is to be a broker between two disciplines. Legal historians are well positioned to straddle the worlds of history and law. Since the goal is to provide information that a judge will find useful, it’s important to have a sense of what the judge is struggling with.”

Pearlman has written several amicus briefs himself and supervised students in writing close to 30 briefs. Pearlman advises students to focus on making

arguments that differ from existing information and creating a brief with plenty of appeal.

“The court gets a lot of amicus briefs, and there’s no point in writing it if no one will read it,” he says. “We want to do our best to make a brief that will be useful for the court. Ideally that means you want to intrigue the clerk with the table of contents. You never know how far up the chain you’ll get but the further you get the more impact you have.”



As a historian, Erman finds amicus briefs to be an interesting exception to the general rule that an attorney can’t get in front of a court without a dispute to settle.

“Amici are permitted to present evidence and make arguments even though they are neither parties nor witnesses,” he says. “It’s an unusual role. I think of it as interdisciplinary expertise sharing. It’s a moment where the law values outside expertise in legal deliberation.”

“Whenever you’re writing a brief that will be signed on to by more than a couple of people you have to recognize this is a diverse group with different viewpoints, and give the court something they will find useful that communicates a single, shared viewpoint.” —Jef Pearlman

Likes for voter rights

Professor Franita Tolson tapped by Facebook as consultant to identify voter suppression activities

By Matthew Kredell

Franita Tolson

USC Gould Professor of Law Franita Tolson has dedicated much of her scholarly work to studying the instances and effects of voter suppression and discrimination. Her work brought her to the attention of Facebook, which recently offered her a position as a voting rights expert.

Tolson, vice dean of faculty and academic affairs at USC Gould, says she is excited about the chance to use her academic research to help protect voting rights for the 2020 election. The job lasts from May until the end of this year.

"I jumped at the offer because it's an opportunity for me to make practical use of all the things I've been writing about for a number of years and make an actual difference," Tolson says. "I think countering misinformation is a very important part of making sure our democracy works. Now I can write about our system of democracy and the right to vote, and actually help to protect it."

As a consultant for Facebook, Tolson is tasked with helping the social media platform be more systematic in identifying posts that could lead to voter suppression. She also will train Facebook employees to recognize the sort of misinformation that could lead to voters not showing up on election day.

"We live in a pretty unusual time with COVID-19 and a shift to vote by mail [in many states] in the fall," Tolson says. "That in and of itself presents unique challenges, so we have to be especially vigilant that



people are not receiving the wrong information when they are already voting in a time of high stress."

Following the 2016 election, Facebook found that approximately \$100,000 in advertisements leading up to the election came from inauthentic accounts likely operating out of Russia, adding to suspicion of Russian interference in the election.

Tolson says she appreciates Facebook's decision to be proactive to prevent such issues from occurring in 2020.

"Social media platforms were a huge part of the problem in 2016," Tolson says. "It's nice that this time around they are saying, 'We don't want to be part of the problem; we want to part of the solution.'"

Tolson notes that it can be difficult to tell which accounts are purposefully spreading wrong information with a nefarious purpose.

Part of her focus will be on ways the social media platform can combat the spread of incorrect information by providing voters with accurate details on state voting requirements, polling place locations and voter registration deadlines.

"Facebook is concerned about subtle efforts to suppress voting," Tolson says. "It's hard to police these types of posts because people make posts all the time about politics that are not always true. So how do we distinguish someone's opinion about the state of politics or about a candidate from an effort to suppress voting?"

Learning the rules of tech tools

USC Gould's Media, Entertainment & Technology program adds new legal tech courses that integrate technology into the practice of law

By Greg Hardesty

As part of its continuous goal to expose students to technology used in actual legal practice, USC Gould's Media, Entertainment & Technology (MET) program has added two new courses giving firsthand experience with leading-edge tools that increase efficiency.

Legal Technology, an interactive course taught by Beverly Rich (JD 2010), a PhD candidate in strategy at USC Marshall School of Business, introduces students to software that is being deployed by law firms for tasks such as discovery in litigation and due diligence in mergers and acquisitions.

A second class, Computer Science for Lawyers, debuting in fall 2020, familiarizes students with concepts and principles related to computer science, critical to litigating intellectual property cases and becoming more important in other legal arenas as well.

"We're always adjusting, tweaking and modifying our curriculum to keep current," says Professor Jonathan Barnett, director of MET. "One of the things we've observed is that lawyers are increasingly using technological tools to make their practices more efficient and more accurate.

"These new courses are in line with the MET program's mission of teaching 'lawyering' rather than just teaching law in the abstract, with an emphasis on teaching skills in the context of actual scenarios that tend to arise in legal practice," he says.

Second-year law student Jesse Wang, one of 22 students enrolled in Legal Technology, says the course is unlike any other he's had at USC Gould.

"As the technology rapidly evolves and advances, I think it's so important for law schools and future

attorneys to keep up and stay up to date with these changes," Wang says. "I'm really excited to brainstorm ideas with my classmates, applying all of the knowledge I've gained from Professor Rich's lectures and guest speakers."

A few years ago, MET created a sub-program on technology and entrepreneurship to respond to developments in the business world.

"We've been teaching students how to contribute on transactional and dispute-resolution matters for big tech firms like Google and small Silicon Beach startups," Barnett says. "Now we're looking at how lawyers themselves are incorporating technology into their own practices."

USING LEGAL TECHNOLOGY TO STREAMLINE LEGAL PRACTICE

The Legal Technology workshop-style course provides students with the opportunity to use and apply several software tools that can make legal practice more productive and efficient.

Consider e-discovery software. A key part of litigation is the discovery stage, in which each party gets access to certain documents that are held by the other party. The volume of documents can be enormous, especially in the age of email. Students learn how software tools like e-discovery can enable this task to be completed more effectively and accurately.

"What e-discovery software does is digitize everything, allowing lawyers to search through large volumes of documents efficiently," Barnett explains.

Students also learn e-diligence, a tool used by corporate attorneys who must review a large volume of documents in the "due diligence" phase of purchasing



Jonathan Barnett, director of MET, sees more lawyers using technology in their practices for accuracy and efficiency.

a company. Like e-discovery, e-diligence software can accelerate and improve the accuracy of the document review process.

Students are also learning a third technology involving semi-automated forms of contracting software that generate templates for certain types of transactions, which attorneys can then customize. This tool combines the efficiencies of automation with a business lawyer's critical judgment and real-world expertise.

Rich says her course addresses the American Bar Association's model rules to promote technological competence, and states' adoption of professional conduct rules or guidelines that acknowledge a lawyer's duty to be competent in technology.

"Future attorneys will need to understand and critically analyze how they can leverage technology to provide the best possible service to their clients," she says.

COMPUTER CONCEPTS CRITICAL FOR PRACTICING LAW

Computer Science for Lawyers, taught by USC Viterbi School of Engineering PhD alumnus Ali Khosh, meets a growing need for expertise in computer science within the legal profession. Computer science concepts often stand at the heart of high-stakes IP litigation and are increasingly penetrating other areas of legal practice, Barnett says.

"Students who are looking to start careers as IP litigators will benefit greatly from this class," Barnett says. "It will allow them to conduct depositions more effectively and translate technical concepts more effectively to a judge and jury."

"We've been teaching students how to contribute on transactional and dispute-resolution matters for big tech firms like Google and small Silicon Beach startups."

—Professor Jonathan Barnett, director of MET

Khosh is vice president of emerging technology and due diligence at Quandary Peak Research. Khosh says, in recent years, software issues have been at the center of various litigation matters that at first glance don't appear to be related, like air mattresses and farming equipment, and personal injury cases caused by embedded devices in items such as rentable scooters — the so-called "Internet of Things."

Other software-related litigation matters, Khosh says, include civil rights cases that allege discriminatory or biased artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms; class actions related to mass collection and use of personal data and data breaches; antitrust cases in business domains far removed from software, like residential property management; and criminal cases that include evidence from cell phones and social media.

"The material discussed in this course is relevant to almost any practice of law," Khosh says. 📌

Generous contribution by Public Interest Law Foun

\$2 million estate gift supports Gould School's commitment to public interest law

By Leslie Ridgeway

Barbara Bice's association with the USC Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) began on the high seas. When her husband, Professor Scott Bice, was early into his career as dean of the USC Gould School of Law, they took interest in the annual PILF auction and came up with a swell idea for an auction item.

"We had a boat here in the harbor," says Bice, smiling with the memory. "And we would auction off cruises — a day cruise to Newport, then an overnight in Avalon (Catalina Island), then a weekend on the island. The trips provided a memorable bonding with the students. Today some of those kids are our best friends. I think it was through the auction and then seeing all the other activities that PILF coordinated and sponsored that we became very engaged in wanting to help them and wanting to see them succeed."

Bice recently provided a sturdy lifeline to the longstanding student organization with a generous \$2 million bequest. With the gift, the USC Public Interest Law Foundation is now named the Barbara F. Bice Public Interest Law Foundation.

Bice, an educator, philanthropist and community leader with a 20-year career as a teacher and administrator in the San Marino Unified School District, says the gift was inspired by strong interest among Gould students in public interest law.

"Two-thirds of this year's 1L class expressed interest in applying for a grant for the summer. That's an incredible increase from 1987 when this program was begun by a handful of students, and there were eight summer internships," she says. "[PILF] has done a fantastic job in motivating students. There's a huge need in the community from underserved populations; as the needs grow, obviously the student interest grows and we want to be able to supply the demand."

She hopes the gift bolsters the law school's actions in the area of public interest law: "I also wanted to underscore the very strong commitment that Dean Guzman has made to the program and to the students," she says.

GIFT HIGHLIGHTS DECADES OF SUPPORT

The Bices' support of PILF has been unwavering for more than 30 years, highlighted by a Special Recognition Award presented to the couple by PILF in 2000. Bice fondly remembers the day, calling it "an emotional tribute."

"It (the award) was an affirmation of what we had tried to do in the 20 years that Scott was dean, and that was to create this family," she says. "It was wonderful to see that goal realized and to know that our efforts were recognized by the students of PILF. We don't have children but we have thousands of surrogates. Scott has married eight couples, four of them law school graduates. We have lasting memories and friendships."

Those enduring connections impressed Dean Andrew T. Guzman, who noted the reach of Bice's gift well past the classroom.

"Barbara cares deeply about our students," he says. "Her gift has meaningful implications for them not only while they are in school, but also beyond their time here. Public interest experiences have the potential to shape our students' legal careers — and the power to transform the lives of the people and families we all serve. I am enormously thankful to Barbara for this investment in our students and the positive impact that they make. We are pleased to rename the organization in her honor."

An enthusiasm for connection has driven Bice's career choices, beginning with a 20-year stint as an AP English teacher and founding director of the Career Center at San Marino High School, followed by a role as founding executive director for the San Marino Schools Foundation, director of major gifts at Huntington Hospital, and later as the director of volunteers for the 1994 World Cup Soccer games in Pasadena.

"The thread through all those years has been connecting: with students, with organizations, finding

Barbara Bice anchors dation



Scott and Barbara Bice with the boat that launched a long-lasting relationship with the Public Interest Law Foundation.

spouses, finding jobs, just trying to make connections with people,” she says. “Today I am the board chair of a group called True Connection, a nonprofit that promotes social emotional learning for students and adults through self- and social awareness and self- and social management. The thread of my career in education is making meaningful, long-lasting connections.”

THE VALUE OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Supporting student organizations is a natural fit for a woman who has dedicated herself to education and career guidance. Bice values student organizations for their role in relationship-building between students and improving communities.

“The work of PILF and so many other Gould organizations goes beyond the classroom, into the community,” she says. “These student organizations provide a link to underserved communities and provide direct service to clients. Students help each other and they help the community. It’s a very collegial atmosphere that the law school consciously fosters.”

Bice cited several examples of PILF’s value to law school students, including organizing legal clinics, hosting speakers and discussion forums,

and doing pro bono work with local organizations like the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles.

“PILF has organized so many interesting panels (that) are open to undergraduates and alums, so they’re really reaching out to a broad-based community,” she says. “They have a wonderful career fair where they invite nonprofit agencies, and the 2Ls and 3Ls mentor the 1Ls and provide a contact for them. It’s a sense of the community that PILF and the other student organizations provide that makes Gould a very special place.”

PILF’s current president, Mirelle Raza (JD 2021) noted Bice’s dedication to philanthropy and education across Los Angeles County, especially at the Gould School.

“For over 30 years she has guided PILF with an unmatched ability to be both a warm mentor and a fierce advocate for public interest initiatives,” Raza says. “Mrs. Bice has been an integral part of PILF victories for over three decades. I cannot imagine a more perfect namesake for the Public Interest Law Foundation than Barbara Bice.”

Ultimately, the opportunity to give back to an organization that has given so much to Bice is a source of pride and gratitude.

“It’s a program that’s been dear to my heart for a long time,” she says. “I love these kids.” 📌

THEY WANT YOU... TO VOTE

Gould alumni boost civic participation with Rock the Vote and I am a voter

By Julie Riggott

In 1990, Rock the Vote forever changed the political landscape with the simple yet revolutionary idea that young people should have political power. The nonpartisan nonprofit's efforts to

engage youth in politics through pop culture, art, music and technology made such an impact — 8 million voter registrations over 30 years — that the name itself became a powerful verb in the political lexicon.

Indeed, after the 100-year high in voter turnout for the 2018 midterm elections, in which 36 percent of citizens ages 18 to 29 reported voting, a Washington Post headline proclaimed: "Young people actually rocked the vote in 2018."

The man behind the idea for Rock the Vote is Jeff Ayeroff (JD 1971), a longtime music industry executive formerly with A&M Records, Warner Bros. Records and Virgin Records America. Escalating artist censorship in the 1980s provoked him to make his mark in civic engagement, though his political fervor flared up in his student days.

As an undergraduate in political science at UCLA during the Vietnam War, Ayeroff was, as he puts it, a "fellow traveler" of Students for a Democratic Society. After graduation, he aimed for a career in the music industry and found some of the best-known music lawyers were USC alumni. That led to enrolling at USC Gould.

A self-described "long-haired leftist kid," he served as the student representative to the faculty, but then "got thrown out for shutting down the school during the invasion of Cambodia."

"I was reinstated when Professor Gary Bellows, my friend, represented me to the faculty," Ayeroff recalls.

After jobs at "small but interesting" entertainment firms, Ayeroff landed at A&M. Later, as founder and co-chair of Virgin's U.S. label, he was inspired to rally more than 50 fellow record label executives to form Rock the Vote as a retort to the Parents Music Resource Center (which

advocated for parental advisory stickers on music with violent, drug-related or sexual content) and a subsequent obscenity arrest of members of the hip-hop group 2 Live Crew.

Offended by the idea of parental advisory stickers, Ayeroff was the perfect foil for them.

"I wouldn't sign an act that needed a sticker," he says. "2 Live Crew was an act I would not have signed, but it's that liberal adage of: 'I don't think like you do, but I don't like censorship, so I'll fight for your right to do it.'"

Ayeroff, a music video pioneer who has worked with iconic artists like Madonna, Prince, Fiona Apple and Jennifer Lopez, secured Rock the Vote's first partnership with MTV, promoting the message that "Censorship Is Un-American." One of Rock the Vote's biggest accomplishments, in his opinion, was backing the Motor Voter bill (the National Voter Registration Act of 1993) allowing voters to register at DMVs. The group also led the way in civic technology and created a groundbreaking voting app.

Thirty years later, Rock the Vote is still the largest youth organization to register young voters. Its current partnerships include Brands for Democracy and Athletes Rock the Vote.

"Youth voting has become, as you see with Bernie Sanders right now, part of the lexicon of politics, which is what I set out to do 30 years ago," says Ayeroff, now retired from both Rock the Vote and the music industry. "Rock the Vote invented the idea that kids could change an election. Bill Clinton told me that he thinks Rock the Vote made the difference in him being elected."

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, CIVIC EDUCATION

Engaging voters is a constant challenge, with registration requirements varying by state and misinformation campaigns proliferating on social media, says Professor Franita Tolson, vice dean for faculty and academic affairs and an expert in election and constitutional law.

“Groups that try to organize and help people register to vote are really, really important,” she says. “Seven years ago, the Supreme Court’s decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* gutted a central part of the Voting Rights Act and made it easier for states to pass laws that restrict access to the right to vote.”

These groups also perform a civic education function.

“Many people don’t understand the right to vote or why it’s important,” Tolson says. “If you don’t know your rights, it’s really difficult to understand the importance of an election.”

In the upcoming presidential election, young voters could have a huge impact. According to the nonpartisan voter registration group I am a voter, 62% of eligible voters in 2020 will be under the age of 39.

Mandana Dayani (Political Science 2003/JD 2007) created and co-founded I am a voter, one of at least 10 other groups including Headcount and Voto Latino that have launched since Rock the Vote.

Dayani started as a corporate attorney at Paul Hastings LLP, then worked as a talent agent, ran Rachel Zoe Inc. and was chief brand officer for Everything But The House.

“As an immigrant from Iran, I have always felt so indebted to our country for welcoming my family with endless opportunity and compassion,” she says. “And I was just really heartbroken seeing our country so divided the last few years. I knew I had to at least try to help.”

After exploratory meetings with several senators and congresswomen, Dayani says she “saw an opportunity for a modern voting brand that was positive, empowering and that really captured how cool it is to be an active participant.”

I am a voter began in 2018 with 20 women. A founding partnership with Creative Artists Agency helped them scale up quickly. They have partnered with brands such as Disney, the NBA, GOOP and AMC Theatres, as well as hundreds of influencers, celebrities and local schools and companies.

“By leveraging our text platform, which can confirm registration and provide polling locations and reminders, we are working to make voter participation accessible to all,” Dayani says.

As Tolson says: “There is still hope. There are people who are fighting the good fight.” 🗳️

Left to right: Franita Tolson, Jeff Ayeroff, Mandana Dayani



INVESTED IN PU

Three students earn fellowships to help women and children in L.A. and immigrants at the border

By Julie Riggott

USC Gould has a long and rich history in public interest law, producing outstanding nonprofit and government lawyers and building Los Angeles' public interest community. The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles was founded at USC in 1929 and the Western Center on Law & Poverty was started by attorneys and legal scholars from USC, UCLA and Loyola Law School in

and early access to mentor programs — and the Public Interest Law certificate.

Demonstrating Gould's leadership in the area, three Class of 2020 students were selected for prestigious fellowships in public interest law for 2020-2022. Rosie Frihart-Lusby and Courtney Mendoza were selected for Equal Justice Works fellowships. Casey Mangan was selected for an Immigrant Justice Corps Fellowship.

After Frihart-Lusby's coursework and participation in Professor Lisa Klerman's Mediation Clinic, where she worked with parents involved in the dependency system through family mediations, she says she feels aptly prepared for her fellowship. Partnering with the Children's Law Center of California, the organization that represents all children involved in the dependency system in Los Angeles County, she will act as the regional center advocate for children with developmental disabilities.

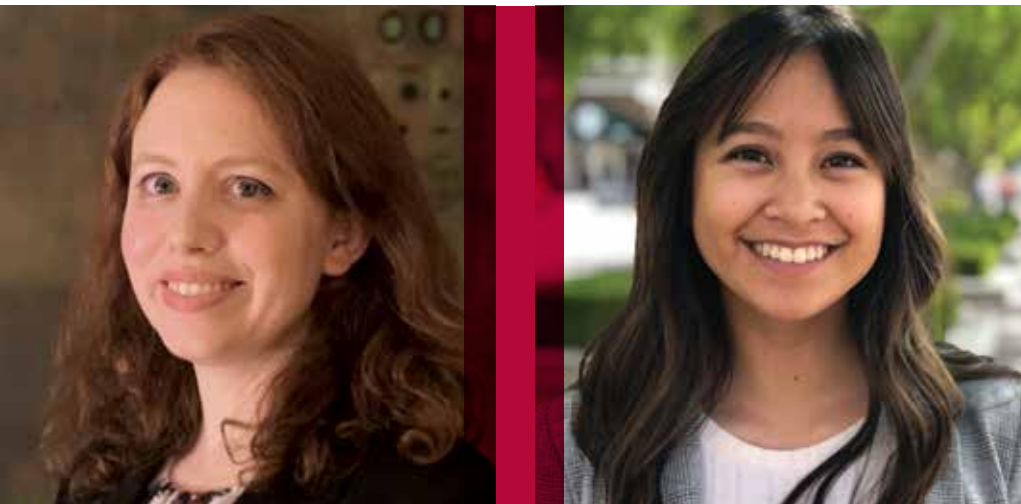
"Public interest law is important to me because it is important to everyone — we as a society are only as good as how we

treat our most vulnerable citizens," says Frihart-Lusby, who learned that "the poor need a voice" through her work as a fourth grade teacher at a school serving a primarily indigent population.

Frihart-Lusby, executive senior editor of the *Southern California Law Review*, is graduating debt-free thanks to a scholarship from USC and a Public Interest Law Foundation grant that allowed her to work pro bono last summer.

With help from Pamela Marx (JD 1978) at Mental Health Advocacy Services Inc., which is headed by Jenny Farrell (JD 2011), Mendoza designed her fellowship project partnering with an L.A. County medical program that provides home visits by a nurse to low-income pregnant women.

"Those nurses are finding that women with mental health disabilities need legal services," she says. "I will be starting a



Left: Rosie Frihart-Lusby
Right: Courtney Mendoza

1967. Several other important public interest organizations, including Mental Health Advocacy Services Inc. and the Wage Justice Center, were established by Gould alumni.

"But that history is not as widely known as it should be," says Professor of the Practice of Law Clare Pastore, a leader in California's public interest community and co-author of *"Poverty Law: Policy & Practice,"* the leading poverty law textbook. Her many honors include being named a Wasserstein Fellow by Harvard University.

"Dean [Andrew] Guzman has made it a priority to place more attention on our rich tradition of public service and public interest work and to support students interested in that career path," she says. Two recent initiatives have boosted those efforts: the Public Interest Scholars program — which offers a higher aid package, extra summer funding

B LIC INTEREST

Left: Casey Mangan
Right: Rebecca Taylor

legal pilot where I will work in collaboration with those nurses to provide legal advocacy to young families for health, housing and food stability.” She will collect outcome data over two years in the hopes that

the county will maintain funding for legal services within this program beyond her fellowship.

“This project is a dream job because it is a culmination of my passion for why I went to law school,” Mendoza says. “Public interest law is the most meaningful and effective way I can help people who really need it the most with my law degree.”

Mangan will be working for the Innovation Law Lab in El Paso, Texas, representing clients in immigration detention centers in both bond and removal hearings. He will also join the El Paso Immigrant Collaborative in its efforts to create more systemic change for immigrants held in detention centers.

While teaching Spanish to recently resettled refugees in Spain before law school, Mangan says he witnessed “the drastic change in outlook and mindset in people who had found someplace safe from persecution ... I wanted to help people make that transition legally, to live somewhere they can do all the things we take for granted.”

Mangan, who participated in the USC Immigration Clinic and served on the executive board for the Public Interest Law Foundation, says, “Students and professors are interested and invested in pro bono at USC Gould, and there are opportunities to gain a lot of experience.”

Rebecca Taylor (JD 2019), who received the Immigrant Justice Corps Fellowship last year, was Gould’s first recipient. She is a fellow at Human Rights First, which focuses on representing refugees in both affirmative and defensive asylum proceedings. “We see clients from every



country, every culture and with every type of asylum claim,” she says.

This is the first year that two Gould students have earned Equal Justice Works fellowships, adding to the 13 previous Gould fellows, including the Hon. Kimberley Baker Guillemet (JD 2005) of the Los Angeles County Superior Court and Suma Mathai (JD 2000).

Mathai divided her fellowship between Break the Cycle and the Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law. She educated thousands of middle and high school students across L.A. County about domestic violence, gave one-on-one counsel and advice, and represented teens in court for restraining orders and family law cases. The Buhai Center kept her on after the fellowship, and she still volunteers. She is currently interim managing attorney for Break the Cycle and a lecturer for both Gould and the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work.

At the Buhai Center, Mathai worked with Rachel Kronick Rothbart, who now, as Gould’s director of career services, brings her in for mock interviews. “The people who are fellows continue to stay connected to the school and help other fellows,” she says. All three of this year’s recipients expressed enthusiastic thanks for Rothbart’s support and guidance through not only the fellowships but also summer internships and other post-grad options.

Fellowships are important for building a lifelong cohort and gaining entry into the field, says Pastore, who worked at the Western Center on Law & Poverty as one of the first Skadden Fellows and then as staff attorney for 14 years. “Fellowships really do start people’s careers.”

Twenty-five years of giving back

Trope and Trope Fellowship milestone marks commitment of Sorrell Trope (JD 1949) to family law and public interest work

By Leslie Ridgeway

Sorrell Trope (JD 1949) had much to be proud of, not the least of which is a 70-year career as one of the most prominent family law attorneys in the nation. Another enduring source of pride: Trope's association with USC Gould School of Law, which he called "a very, very special place to me."

"That law school was my life," said Trope, whose storied family law career includes representing celebrities like Cary Grant and Nicole Kidman. "It was just a great place to go to school. If there was ever a place I would give something to, it would be that law school."

2020 marks the 25th year of Trope giving back to his alma mater and clients in need through the Trope and Trope Fellowship at the Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law in Los Angeles. Every year, one USC Gould student spends a summer at the center working on marriage dissolutions, domestic violence cases, paternity cases and other aspects of family law, all pro bono.

On May 23, Sorrell Trope passed away, leaving a legacy of the practice of law, leadership and philanthropy.

For Nicole King (JD 2012), an associate at Venable LLP in Los Angeles, the fellowship helped confirm her desire to be an attorney.

"That experience was so great because I had so much client interaction," she says. "I felt empowered in terms of having

ownership over my cases. I liked talking to people, learning their stories, being that facilitator to flesh out the facts and figure out what was important. I remember working with Betty [Nordwind, Buhai Center executive director] who emphasized the value of understanding your role while working with clients in family law. The fellowship was good for me in the sense of cementing a lawyer's role."

FELLOWSHIP INFORMS CAREER DIRECTION

Suma Mathai (JD/MSW 2000) had seen herself working in dependency law, but the summer fellowship wound up ushering her into 20 years of public interest work, at the Buhai Center and other local organizations like Break the Cycle. She's also an adjunct lecturer at USC Gould and the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work. Mathai credits the Trope and Trope Fellowship with providing the means to gain experience that leads to a rewarding career choice.

"I would not necessarily have applied to work at the Buhai Center in the first place, but the fellowship changed the course of my career," she says. "I got to see the need



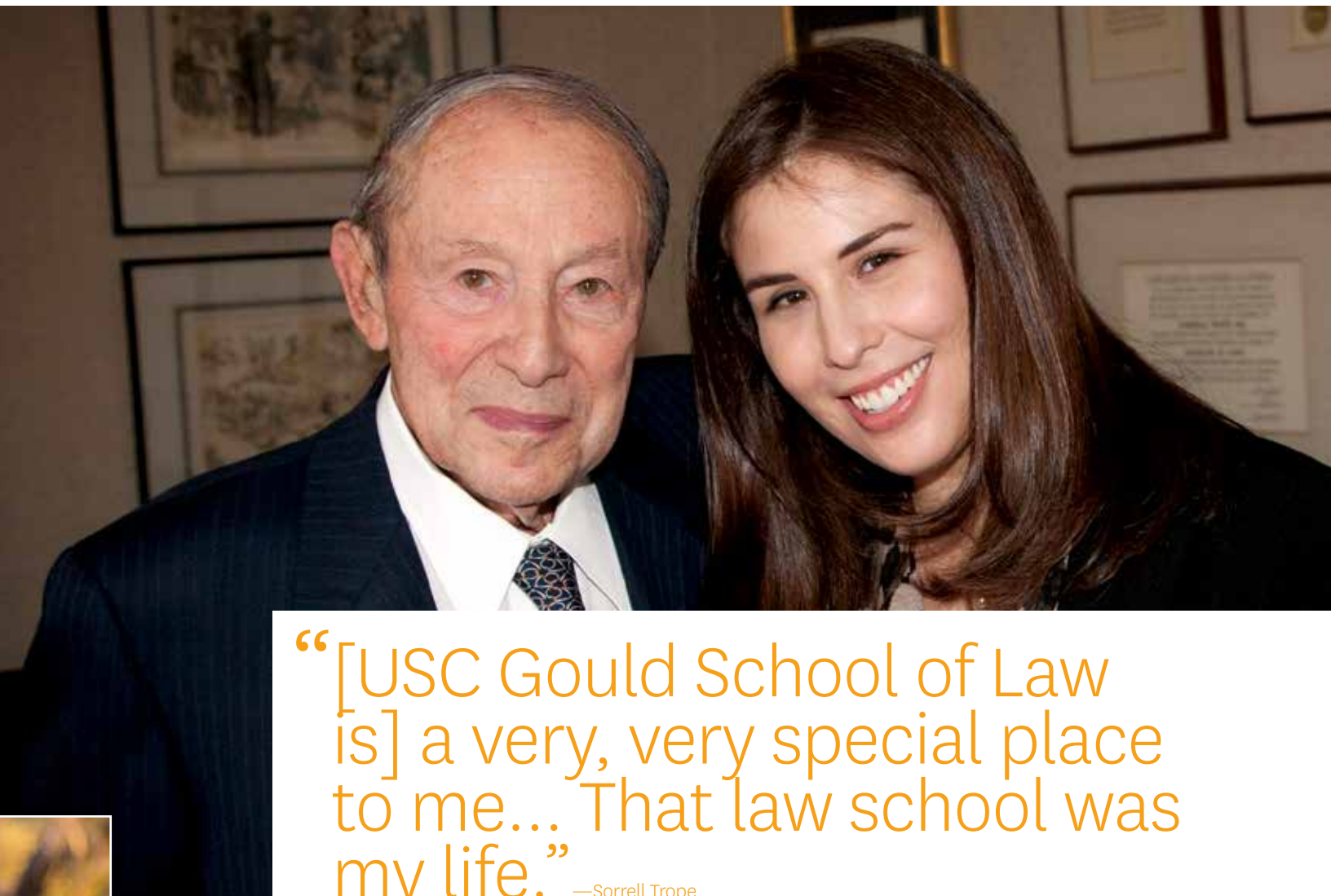
Page 19: Sorrell Trope with Alisa Wecker (JD 2016), who interned at the Buhai Center with support from the Trope and Trope Fellowship.

PHOTO BY MIKEL HEALEY

To the right: Suma Mathai

Below: Nicole King





“[USC Gould School of Law is] a very, very special place to me... That law school was my life.” —Sorrell Trope

for family law in the community. And getting a chance to meet Sorrell Trope was phenomenal. He’s like the grandfather of family law in L.A. He has a unique perspective about civility in the profession, the need to give back to community and making sure there’s access to the courts for everyone.”

Trope’s dedication to family law stemmed from a desire for fairness and equity for those with few options to fight for themselves. “What goes on in family court is sad and disturbing,” he said in a 2015 interview. “Often you see people trying to represent themselves who don’t know what they’re doing. They need quality legal representation.”

A FERVOR TO CORRECT INJUSTICE

In an interview shortly before his passing, he applauded the national trend of law students to choose public interest careers, something that was evident even when he was helming Trope and Trope LLP.

“It’s like the various groups that perform work to correct injustice as existed in society and the law,” he said. “Over the years I’ve hired heaven knows how many lawyers to work for me. I created the first family law-exclusive firm in the state and at its peak I had 30 lawyers in the firm. You could tell they were lawyers interested in domestic violence, defending people, representing people who were victims of that sort of thing.”

Trope’s gratitude to USC Gould arose in part from his own experience with injustice. When he graduated from law school, it was a struggle to find work as he came up against anti-Semitism in early-1950s Los Angeles.

“Established firms in L.A. wouldn’t even interview a Jew, let alone hire them,” he said. “The law school pulled me and others through that experience. The law school was a pivotal place for a young Jewish lawyer to get himself or herself on his or her feet.

“USC was always there to help,” Trope said. “You feel it in your bones when you’re there. I feel I’m home when I’m there.” ✍

PLAYING THE LONG GAME



Amy Forbes (JD 1984) uses creative thinking inspired by USC Gould to bring SoFi Stadium into reality

By Matthew Kredell

Alumna Amy Forbes credits Professor Emeritus George Lefcoe for helping to change her career direction to land-use law.

For Amy Forbes (JD 1984), the opening kickoff to the NFL season at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood will be the culmination of 16 years overcoming obstacles and coming up with creative solutions as lead counsel to an ever-evolving project.

"I didn't realize how exhilarating a stadium could be as a piece of architecture," Forbes says. "When you fly into LAX, you will see that stadium. It will become a recognizable landmark of Los Angeles."

A partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP where she has worked for 35 years, Forbes' involvement with redeveloping Hollywood Park goes back to 2004, when she began work on turning the 238-acre racetrack property into a mixed-use development.

TAKING THE INITIATIVE

Stadium construction was nearly ready to begin in 2014 when Los Angeles Rams owner Stan Kroenke bought the adjacent 60-acre parking lot and broached the idea of a partnership to develop the full 300 acres.

With a decade invested into project and development finally on the horizon, changing the scale of the project seemed too complicated. Going through the approval process all over again would expose the development to lawsuits under the California Environmental Quality Act, which could cause another delay of up to five years.

The project came to fruition only because of Forbes' creative plan to avoid legal delays by going through a voter-sponsored initiative rather than the conventional city approval process.

In order to do the initiative, Forbes and her team had to draft ordinances, rules and zoning enactments even before the stadium was designed. If there were mistakes or anything missing, that would have triggered the five-year delay.

"I'm really proud that five years later, we're still going off that set of documents and haven't found any major mistakes," Forbes says. "I'll tell you, when I dropped them off that night, it's all I could think of."

LESSONS LEARNED AT GOULD LEAD TO SUCCESS

After graduating from Princeton University with a degree in civil engineering, Forbes worked in management consulting after college, but found it uninspiring. After college summers working on Capitol Hill and on political campaigns, she was struck by the intersection of law and technology, particularly in the areas of urban design and transportation. Taking a class from USC Gould Prof. George Lefcoe changed her career focus to land-use law. She credits Lefcoe, who retired in 2019 after 57 years at Gould, for what she was able to accomplish with the stadium project.

"My engagement with (the stadium project) was like a final exam of avoiding pitfalls and spotting issues in George's class," Forbes says. "So many little pieces had to come together to make it work, and I learned everything I needed about initiatives and referenda and land-use planning from George."

Forbes stresses that many other people have contributed in the development of the stadium that will house the NFL's Rams and Chargers. Included among them are another two alumni of USC Gould, Nate Goldstein (JD 2015), now counsel at SoFi Stadium and Hollywood Park, and Mike Szczurek (JD 2009), now a partner at Gibson Dunn.

"It was like a Rubik's cube," Forbes says. "It's incredible now to go on site and see the tangible manifestation of something that was just a theoretical possibility five years ago." 🏈

SPOTLIGHT ON PUBLIC SERVICE:

Alumni Q&A with Kei Sato LLM '11

Kei Sato graduated from the USC Gould School of Law's LLM program in 2011, and went on to pursue a career in public service in Japan. Today, he is a member of the upper house of Japan's legislature, the House of Councillors, where he currently serves as vice chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration.



Kei Sato LLM '11

CAREER FOCUS

What motivated you to pursue a career in public service?

I believe that government should take a main role for all of the challenges facing Japan. I started my career as a policy maker at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Japan in 2003, and for 12 years, I focused mainly on revitalization of local areas. After that, I ran for the House of Councillors in July 2016 with the Liberal Democratic Party.

What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the House of Councillors?

Given Japan's aging society, I want to contribute to the creation of a society where people can stay healthy and prosper for a long time. I want to achieve social security reform. The state will help preventive medicine and spread it to the people. In addition, I would also like to work on fiscal consolidation in Japan.

What's the most rewarding part of your work?

Members of Parliament can contribute to all national issues... such as the severe security environment, budget deficits, declining birthrate and aging population. Solving these issues and working to leave a better Japan for the next generation is the greatest challenge.

USC EXPERIENCE

Why did you choose to study at USC Gould for your LLM?

Los Angeles is one of the most diverse cities in the world. The same is true for USC's law school. New ideas emerge from diversity. That was attractive to me. Once again, if I could go to an American law school, I would choose USC.

How has your USC Gould education prepared you for your leadership roles in government?

When I was a government employee, I was involved in several legislative changes. Parliamentarians are tasked with drafting, deliberating and enacting laws. I studied U.S. public law at USC's law school. Having knowledge of foreign law is very useful, combined with knowledge of Japanese law. Now I am at the forefront of negotiations with the opposition, but knowledge of the law is my greatest asset.

Was there a course you found particularly inspirational?

"Local Government Law" was inspirational. Japan and the United States have different legal systems. In a nutshell, Japanese local governments are uniform, and U.S. local governments are diverse. In the United States, residents form local governments as needed. I saw here exactly the origin of democracy.

What advice would you pass on to current Gould LLM students?

Enjoy L.A. and extracurricular activities! When I was at the law school, I was elected an international student representative in the student council. In that capacity, I focused on enhancing cultural exchanges among students and extracurricular activities. As one example, I completed the 2011 Los Angeles Marathon together with other classmates. 🏃



GOULD'S NEWEST MEMBERS OF CALIFORNIA BAR

More than 70 USC Gould graduates attend annual ceremony with family and friends

By Leslie Ridgeway

USC Gould School of Law graduates officially sworn in as admitted members of the California bar.

More than 70 USC Gould School of Law graduates celebrated an important high point in their early legal careers when they were officially sworn in as admitted members of the California bar in December.

The ceremony, which took place at USC's Town & Gown, was hosted by Dean Andrew Guzman, with Student Bar Association President Jalen Russell serving as bailiff. Administering the state and federal attorney's oaths were the Hon. Kimberley Baker Guillemet (JD 2005) and the Hon. Autumn D. Spaeth (JD 2000).

Noting that the ceremony was taking place shortly before the Gould School celebrates its 120th anniversary in 2020, Dean Guzman praised family and friends for their support, and the graduates for the hard work that led up to their important accomplishment.

"Passing the bar is no small feat," Dean Guzman said. "You should be enormously proud of what you just achieved. Each of you has not only proven that you possess a thorough knowledge and understanding of the law, but also the self-discipline and motivation to become attorneys."

USC Gould consistently ranks among the law schools with the highest bar passage rates statewide. This year, the law school recorded an 86% pass rate, more than 20 points above the statewide average.

"TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, MUCH IS REQUIRED"

Judge Guillemet and Judge Spaeth each offered three points of advice for the graduates before the swearing-in. Judge Guillemet urged the graduates to be proud of themselves, stay humble, and appreciate the responsibility they

have to use their intelligence and ambition to do good works.

"To whom much is given, much is required," said Guillemet, Los Angeles County Superior Court judge. "In your position as attorneys, you will have access to rooms, people and conversations that the vast majority of people will not ever have. Use your access, opportunity and position wisely. Use them justly, with grace, dignity, respect and mercy."

Judge Guillemet noted the power of the newly minted attorneys to change lives.

"While ambition is something that can carry us a long way, at the end of the day, when it's all said and done, we have to be able to sit quietly with ourselves and be at peace and know that we've done our best professionally, personally and ethically," she said.

Judge Spaeth, U.S. Magistrate judge of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, encouraged the graduates to understand for themselves what "success" means, build a reputation with the Bar and the courts, and understand the value of relationships.

"Your definition (of success) will change throughout your career," Judge Spaeth said. "What matters here is that you understand that there is more than one way to be successful in this profession. There are many areas of law, many types of law firms, many types of clients and many types of work. What matters is (that) you find one that fits with your skills and your abilities and your personality." 🧰

MAKING THE CONNECTION

Noemi Perez (MSL 2019) uses skills learned at USC Gould to broker agreement that helps National Parks better engage diverse groups

By Matthew Kredell

Alumna Noemi Perez says she is most proud that the agreement she negotiated between the National Parks Service and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was one of the fastest to be approved by the parks service. At right, NPS and sorority officials sign the agreement.

Shortly after completing her online Master of Studies in Law degree at USC Gould last year, Noemi Perez realized she could put her new skills to use by linking her sorority to the National Park Service.

As 2020 approached, Perez wanted to do something special to help commemorate the 100th year of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. The sorority was formed at Howard University in 1920 by five African American women who wanted to focus on addressing social causes more than socializing.

Perez connected the organization's and the National Park Service's common interest in preserving the nation's African American cultural resources.

"I thought, 'What better way for the sorority to celebrate its centennial than to collaborate with the National Park Service and learn about the phenomenal African American women who have come through the organization?'" Perez says.

SHEPHERDING FROM START TO FINISH

The idea sprang from her experience working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where she helped implement national partnerships with African American and Latino stakeholder groups.

Perez pitched the partnership to the sorority and National Park Service. Over five months, she brokered the agreement and wrote the language for a memorandum of understanding.

"Fundamental to the agreement were the skills I learned at USC Gould in brokering relationships, negotiating deals, and the technical side of building out a partnership between nonprofits and non-government agencies," Perez says.

The five-year agreement provides a framework to promote the study of the park service's national and cultural resource preservation and management to African American women and other diverse groups, and actively engage African American participation.

The partnership outlines the ways the two organizations can benefit each other. For example, Zeta will promote the park service to its network of members, and give access to its youth auxiliaries and collegiate chapters to help the



agency engage better with diverse groups. The park service will make lands, facilities and staff available for Zeta's outreach efforts, and provide information on parks, cultural sites and natural resource management and other career opportunities to the African American community.

"I am looking forward to NPS sites across the country providing opportunities for African American women and young girls to get involved, explore career opportunities and learn about how NPS protects and preserves cultural resources," says George McDonald, chief director of youth programs for the National Park Service.

Perez, who does freelance consulting work in government relations and corporate citizenship, got involved in the sorority as an undergraduate at USC in 1996. She appreciated the values the organization placed on womanhood and education while welcoming diversity in background and thought.

"I GIVE ALL PRAISE TO USC GOULD"

Perez credited classes she took at USC Gould in contract drafting, law fundamentals and dispute resolution in helping her write the memorandum.

"Noemi entered the class already having some experience in drafting contracts and showed a lively interest in deepening her knowledge and skills," says Shawn Sullivan, USC Gould lecturer in law, who taught the class in contract drafting.

Perez is most proud that the memorandum was approved by the parks service in just three weeks without any changes.

"They said it was the fastest something has ever gone through a thorough legal review at the agency," Perez says. "That's exactly the type of value that I expected to receive from Gould and returning to school. For that to come from a federal agency, navigating through multiple layers of bureaucracy, I give all the praise to USC Gould." ✍️

Leadership in action

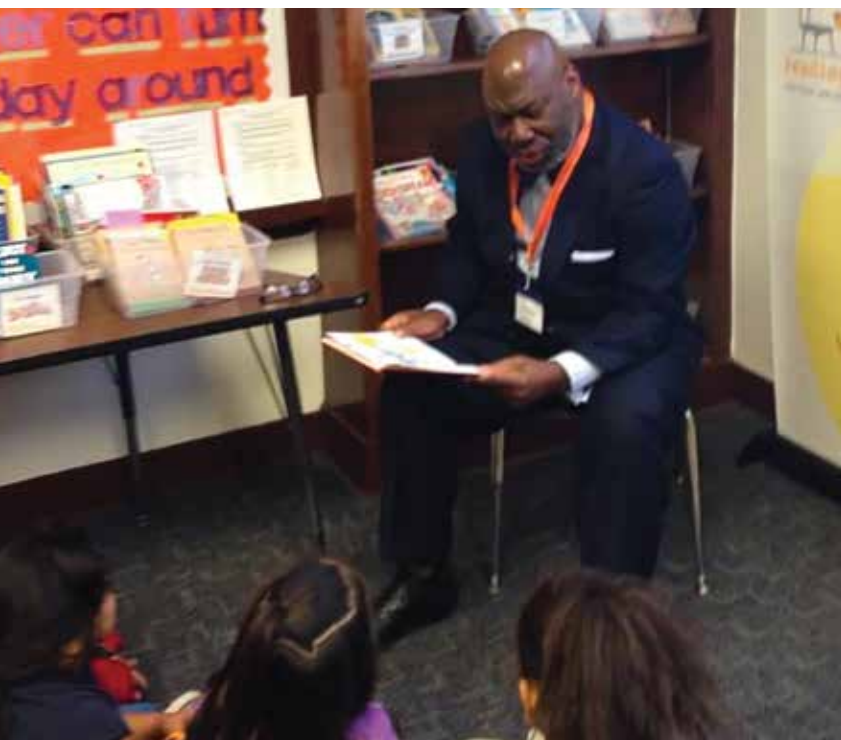
Triple Trojan Michael L. Williams has built a legacy as a pioneering public servant

By Ben Dimapindan

In nearly four decades of public service, Michael L. Williams (JD 1979) has never been shy about stepping into new roles and tackling new challenges.

In the 1980s, after gaining experience at state and county levels, Williams practiced as a federal prosecutor, litigating notable cases including hate crimes. He went on to hold federal leadership posts throughout the 1990s — in the departments of Justice, Treasury and Education — including Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights, appointed by President George H.W. Bush. In 2000,

Michael Williams
reads to
schoolchildren.



Williams made Texas history, becoming the first and only African American elected to a statewide executive position as a member of the Railroad Commission, the body that regulates the oil and gas industries. In 2012, he shifted his focus to education, helping bridge Texas' academic K-12 achievement gap as head of the state's education agency.

"That whole mix of law, politics and social justice has always been part of my nature," Williams says, recalling how, as a young boy, he would lie down in front of the television and write down election returns from races around the country.

For Williams, pursuing a career in public service was inspired largely by "the period of time in which I was born and raised," he says. Growing up in West Texas in the 1950s, Williams noted that some schools were still segregated. His parents were educators who taught at an all-Black school.

"I grew up at the maturation of the civil rights movement," he says.

"I remember the theater, when Black folks had to sit in the balcony, and white folks sat down below. I'm old enough that there were certain stores where you couldn't try on clothes in Midland, Texas. And I'm not that old," says Williams, who is 66. "The need for social change, I didn't need to go far to see it."

PROUD PROSECUTOR

After earning his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Public Administration from USC, Williams continued on to Gould for his law degree. "I was home at USC. There was no other place I wanted to go to law school," he says.



Williams calls being a federal prosecutor the proudest moment of his career.

Of all the law positions he held, his time in the Department of Justice as a federal prosecutor stands out when Williams looks back on his career.

“I am still proud of the prosecution of cross-burning cases, the prosecution of hate crime cases, the prosecution of police misconduct cases. When I look back on those four-plus years, I knew that I was on the side of the gods,” he says.

The analytical skills he developed at Gould proved instrumental in his legal career: “how to think through difficult matters, how to assess the strengths and weaknesses of not only legal cases, but political issues that I had,” he says.

MAJOR MILESTONE

Following his work in Washington, Williams returned to Texas for a pivotal leadership position as a railroad commissioner. The commission’s regulatory impacts — from environmental efforts to pipeline safety to reliable delivery of gas to homes and business — are far-reaching in a state that is the nation’s top producer of oil and natural gas and one of the largest producers of coal. As the first and only African American to hold an elected

EDUCATIONAL REFORM

This sense of responsibility extended into the educational sphere, where Williams served as Texas Education Agency commissioner from 2012 to 2016. In that role, his top priority was “closing the achievement gap between our Brown and Black and poor students, and their white and middle- and upper-income counterparts. Texas is a state where our students statewide are about 60% Brown and Black, and 65% economically disadvantaged.”

To narrow the gap, he focused on systems, structures, resources and incentives. He also sought to make advanced classwork for college preparation more accessible to Texas students.

One of his toughest challenges was as “enforcer” — which included making the difficult decision to close down campuses and districts and merge them with better-performing ones.

“There did come times when you gave underperforming campuses or districts resources, assistance and support to turn around, and they were still unable to do it. Rather than require those youngsters to continue going to schools in districts that were underperforming, we changed leadership and sometimes we changed the entire operation,” he says.

Today, Williams is the inaugural Distinguished Leader-in-Residence at the University of North Texas at Dallas.

USC remains a prominent part of his life. As an undergrad, he ran track and field for the Trojans, and

“That whole mix of law, politics and social justice has always been part of my nature.” — Michael L. Williams

executive position in Texas history, the role carried added personal meaning.

“At my swearing-in, obviously, I was extremely proud and humbled, but I realized that I stood on the shoulders of some great people — African Americans who came before me like [Congress members and fellow Texans] Barbara Jordan, Mickey Leland and Craig Washington,” he says. “It came with an enormous amount of humility, but it came with some serious responsibility as well.”

many of his teammates become lifelong friends. To this day, he enjoys supporting the team and travels to watch track meets.

Reflecting on almost 40 years in public service, Williams acknowledges that the work wasn’t always easy, but it was fulfilling.

“I’ve never had a bad day in my life,” he says. “Some are better than others, but I’ve never had a bad day.” 🏈

HONOR ROLL



Dave Carothers (JD 1985) and **Brent Giddens (JD 1987)**, both partners at Carothers DiSante & Freudenberger LLP, were named 2020 Southern California Super Lawyers by *Super Lawyers Magazine*.



Matt Cave (JD 2011) co-founded Kibler Fowler & Cave LLP, a boutique law firm focused on litigation for entertainment, business, real estate and financial services.

David Clark (JD 2010) was elected as partner in the Orange County office of Haynes and Boone LLP. Clark is a trial attorney who helps clients solve complex business disputes, with a focus on licensing disputes and other business litigation, along with areas such as patent litigation and trade secrets.



Monisha Coehlo (JD 2009) joined AlvaradoSmith as a partner in their Los Angeles office. Her practice focuses on business and commercial litigation, real estate litigation and cross-border U.S.-India legal matters. Previously, she served as the head of International Practice-India for ADLI Law Group.



Mark Foster (JD 1998) was elected as partner in the Orange County office of Snell & Wilmer LLP. Foster's practice is concentrated on representing institutional owners, operators and developers, as well as financial institutions and investors.

Steffi Hafen (JD 2010), a partner at Snell & Wilmer LLP, will co-lead the firm's new San Diego office. Hafen is certified in estate planning, trust and probate law by the California Board of Legal Specialization. Her practice is concentrated in tax, trust, and estate matters with an emphasis in estate planning, business succession planning, charitable planning, and trust and probate administration and litigation, as well as state and local taxation.



Maria Hall (JD 2003) will be recognized by the National Lawyers Guild of Los Angeles (NLG-LA) at its awards event. As an executive board member of the guild, she is a solo practice lawyer whose work focuses on civil rights, environmental justice and tenants' rights, as well as pro bono activist legal

defense. She has been active with many local organizations, serving as a trustee of the Mexican American Bar Foundation, co-president of NLG-LA, and attorney development director of the LA Incubator Consortium, which supports new solo attorneys committed to closing the access-to-justice gap.

Christine Harding Hart (JD 2011) was elected a partner at Hand Arendall Harrison Sale LLC. Hart's practice focuses on civil litigation with an emphasis on higher education and constitutional law matters.

Nathan Hardy (JD 2015) co-authored an opinion piece published in the *Los Angeles Times*, titled "Trump has packed the courts with right-wing ideologues. Democrats, what's your plan?" Hardy is a co-chair of the Los Angeles Lawyer chapter of the American Constitution Society.

Alan Kang (JD 2004), the plaintiff's attorney in a lawsuit against Rancho Palos Verdes' Terranea Resort, was quoted in the *Daily Breeze* newspaper about the case.

Brien R. Kelley (JD 2000), a partner in the real estate practice of Sklar Kirsh LLP, was named by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* to its list of "Top Minority Attorneys in L.A." While at USC Gould, Kelley was a Legion Lex Merit Scholar, vice president of the Black Law Students Association and a member of the Hale Moot Court Honors Program.

Brandon Kennedy (JD 2012) joined the U.S. Department of Justice's international trade field office as a trial attorney representing the government at the U.S. Court of International Trade in New York. He was previously employed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



Lisa Kloppenberg (BA 1984, JD 1987) in March was named provost and vice president for academic affairs at Santa Clara University, where she had been serving in an interim capacity since June 2019. Previously, she was dean of Santa Clara University School of Law and dean of the University of Dayton School

of Law. Kloppenberg is a national expert in mediation, arbitration and other forms of alternative dispute resolution, in addition to constitutional law.

Justin F. Mello (JD 2019) joined the Orange County office of Snell & Wilmer LLP as an associate with the commercial litigation group.



Steven Mindel (JD 1985) was named by *Super Lawyers Magazine* as one of the Top 10 Super Lawyers in Southern California. Mindel, a certified family law specialist, is the managing partner at Feinberg Mindel Brandt & Klein LLP.

Sean D. Muntz (JD 2002) was promoted to co-managing partner of RMO Lawyers LLP, a probate and trust estate litigation law firm. An experienced litigator, Muntz focuses his probate and trust estate litigation practice on representing beneficiaries, professional and corporate fiduciaries and charities in contested trust and probate estate and conservatorship litigation matters. Prior to joining RMO LLP, Muntz was a partner at international law firm Bryan Cave LLP, and was named a Southern California Super Lawyer.

Jeffrey S. Rasmussen (JD 2011) was recently elected a shareholder at Ray Quinney & Nebeker, a full-service law firm in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is a member of the firm's real estate section and helps clients navigate development of residential, commercial and resort properties, leasing, acquisitions and dispositions of real property, entitlements, zoning and land use issues.

Andrew Stein (JD 1999) was elected a partner at Hersh Mannis LLP.

Laine Wagenseller (JD 1993) was selected as a Super Lawyer for the sixth consecutive year by *Super Lawyers Magazine*.

Stephanie Ward (JD 2010) joined the Starz cable and satellite network as the vice president of business and legal affairs. Previously, Ward was the vice president of business and legal affairs for 44 Blue Productions.

Kristen C. Vine (JD 1996) was named a director of Jackson & Campbell in Washington, D.C. Her practice focuses on the defense of complex insurance coverage litigation relating to environmental and toxic torts claims.



Jennifer Yee (JD 2012) was elected partner in the Phoenix office of Snell & Wilmer LLP. She was also recognized as a finalist for the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce's ATHENA Awards. ATHENA finalists are chosen for excellence in business and leadership, dedication to the community and support and mentorship of women.

Roye Zur (JD 2010), partner at Elkins Kalt Weintraub Reuben Gartside LLP, has been chosen to lead the firm's new bankruptcy and restructuring practice group. Zur's expertise includes representing clients in bankruptcy and out-of-court restructuring transactions, bankruptcy and commercial litigation, including through appeal. In addition, he has extensive experience representing entities and individuals in the entertainment industry.

GEORGE HOWARD BAECHTOLD (LLB 1959), 91, passed away on Dec. 7, 2019, in Laguna Beach, Calif. Baechtold was born in Granite City, Ill. and raised in Collinsville during the Great Depression and World War II. He graduated from Elmhurst College in 1950 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He was an electrician in the U.S. Navy following college, was sent to officer candidate school and served in a number of roles during the Korean War aboard the USS Boyd DD 544, retiring as a full lieutenant.

Baechtold practiced law in the San Fernando Valley for approximately 15 years, specializing in wills, contracts, probate, real estate and corporate law. He was a professor at California State University, Northridge, for 21 years.

Baechtold is survived by Joe Baechtold-Moreno, Christie Schuetz, Laura Baker and Glenn Schuetz.

ROGER W. BORRELL (BS 1960, LLM 1963), 81, passed away peacefully in Yuba City, Calif., on Feb. 18, 2020. The oldest of three sons, Borrell grew up in Ventura, Calif., graduating from Ventura High School and earning his law degree at USC Gould. After graduation, he returned to Ventura County to practice law and eventually started his own practice.

During his 30-year career, Borrell developed a reputation as a formidable trial litigator and a leader in the Ventura County Bar. In 1974, he persuaded the California Supreme Court that it was fundamentally unfair for police not to preserve evidence that could show a person was innocent if the police could easily save that evidence. That decision was eventually cited in over 100 appellate opinions by state and federal courts in 17 states, before the law was changed by the United States Supreme Court in 1984.

In 1993, Borrell retired from practicing law to be a full-time farmer, bought a rice ranch in Colusa County and moved to Yuba City. Borrell joined the board of the local water district, where he served for over 24 years as vice chair of the board.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Donna; his son, Mark; his granddaughters, Haley, Avery and Riley; and his brothers, Bob (Sherrill) and Greg. He was preceded in death by his parents and his son Jeff.

JOHN "STEVEN" HARTWELL (LLB 1964), 82, was born in Huntington Park, Calif. and passed away on Oct. 19, 2019, in San Diego after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

After earning his LLB at USC Law School, Hartwell joined the Peace Corps, where he served in both Kenya and Colombia. Upon returning to the U.S., Hartwell became a legal aid attorney in San Diego before finding his true passion as a professor, teaching at California Western School of Law until he found a home with the University of San Diego in 1980, where he taught for 28 years.

Hartwell is survived by his wife, Sherry, his daughters, Laura and Elena, two grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

CYRUS "CY" ADDISON JOHNSON (LLM 1961) passed away in Palm Desert, Calif. after a brief illness. Born in Nebraska, Cy attended Doane College and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, where he received degrees in law and business administration. After graduation in 1953, he served in the U.S. Navy and while stationed in San Diego, he met and married Charlotte Hardy in 1957. He served as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of the Treasury and later worked in IRS regional offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco. In 1961, he obtained his LLM in taxation from USC Gould. He moved to Sacramento and worked first as an associate and then a partner in the law firm of Diepenbrock Wulff Plant & Hannegan. Later, he served as a partner in the Sacramento law firm of Riegels Campos & Kenyon LLP and of counsel in the law firm of Goldsberry, Freeman & Guzman LLP. He retired after 50 years of practice in Sacramento.

Johnson was a certified specialist in taxation law for the California State Bar; an adjunct professor of law at McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific; vice chairman of the California State Bar Tax Committee and held various offices and memberships in local organizations.

He was an avid outdoorsman and exceptional hunter and fisherman. He was devoted to his family and loved hiking and duck hunting with his grandsons.

He is survived by daughters Carole Gray and Julie Landis. His wife, Char, and daughter Beth predeceased him. He is also survived by five grandsons.

ANDREW STEVENS KIERSTEAD (JD 1987), 57, died peacefully on Feb. 4, 2020, after a long illness.

A native of New Haven, Conn., Kierstead graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1984 and received his law degree from USC in 1987. He practiced law in Los Angeles, Calif., Portland, Ore. and finally in Plymouth, Mass., where he settled in as part of a nationwide group of class action lawyers.

A devoted family man, Kierstead is survived by his wife Kathryn Jan (Rayl); daughter, Isabel; and son, Eli. He is also survived by his parents, Raymond and Marilyn Kierstead; brother, Evan, and his wife, Mary Beth; and nephew, Finian, all of Portland, Ore.

ROBERT "BOB" PETERSON (LLB 1959), 86, passed away on March 14, 2020. Peterson was born in Pasadena, Calif. He graduated from Pacific Union College in 1956 and continued on to USC Law School, where he was associate editor of the *USC Law Review*. Upon graduation in 1959, he was appointed to the Order of the Coif.

Peterson was admitted to the bar by the California Supreme Court in 1960. He practiced business law and tried civil and criminal cases as well. He was active in his community, providing legal advisory services to the Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and serving on the board of directors of the White Memorial Hospital.

Peterson enjoyed playing the trombone, fishing, sailing, going on walks, and reading. He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Sandra; two children, Karen Fearon and Steven Peterson; four grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

DAVID H. ROSS (JD 1986), 80, passed away at his Santa Cruz home on Jan. 22, 2020, from pancreatic cancer. Born in Grand Rapids, Mich., in 1940, Ross was raised in Connecticut and attended Phillips Academy Andover. He is an alumnus of Columbia University and University of California, Berkeley.

Ross taught literature at Sacramento State College and the University of Hartford. Later, he earned his law degree at USC and practiced family law for over 25 years in Santa Cruz. Ross had a strong interest in community activism and was elected to the board of directors of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District four times, serving continuously from 1988 to 2006, and volunteered as a member of the local branch of the ACLU.

Ross is survived by his partner, Jan Freya; his brother, Allen; his children, Michael, Alex and McKenzie; and his five grandchildren.

ANTHONY JOSEPH ROSSI (LLB 1960), 88, passed away on Dec. 8, 2019, surrounded by the love of his family. Rossi was born into an Italian immigrant family in Los Angeles, Calif.

Rossi attended Cathedral High School in Los Angeles and Los Angeles City College. He put himself through USC as an undergraduate and law student, and was president of his law school class. After earning his LLB from USC, Rossi received a master's degree in law at New York University.

Rossi's real estate career spanned 55 years and included, at age 72, becoming a founding partner of Kennerly Lamishaw and Rossi, LLP. He also served as of counsel with Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker LLP, and was a principal in First Financial Group and American Beauty Development among other positions.

Rossi is predeceased by his wife, Marilyn Moss Rossi, and is survived by his three children, Jill Smith, Joe Rossi, and Laurel Mauch; his brother, Bob Rossi, and his sister, Christine Lewis, and by his wonderful life partner, Grace Latt, and her children, Rae Latt and Jonathan Latt. He also found great joy in his 11 grandchildren and his two great-grandchildren.

KENNETH C. RYKEN (JD 1991), 55, passed away in Pleasanton, Calif., on Jan. 5, 2020.

Born in Walnut Creek, Calif., he graduated from Hayward High School in 1983. Ryken went on to study at Chabot College, San Francisco State and USC, where he received his law degree.

Ryken first practiced with Sedgwick LLP, and joined the Alameda County District Attorney's office in 1996, where he worked as finance director and then assistant district attorney until his passing. He was a member of the 100 Club, Hayward Rotary Club and on the board of the Hayward Area Historical Society.

Ryken is survived by his wife, Jean Luevano; children, Jackson and Lauren; grandson, Wesley; parents, Dick and Deanna; siblings, Tim Ryken and Kathy Vaughn; and many loving extended family members and cherished friends.

CARON CAINES SMITH (JD 1990), 60, an attorney who served at Neighborhood Legal Services Los Angeles County, passed away on March 23, 2020. After earning a degree in theater arts from California State University at Northridge, Smith taught high school English and later applied to law school, with an eye towards public interest law.



Her first job after graduation was with NLSLA, which was called San Fernando Valley Legal Services in 1990 when she joined as a family law attorney. She developed and implemented many workshops and clinics based in four courthouses.

Smith led NLSLA's first ventures into community economic development and pushed for the funding and construction of a tenant center at San Fernando Gardens, a low-income housing complex. She was instrumental in developing NLSLA's Self Help Legal Access Centers. She left NLSLA in 2008 to become a family law case coordinator for the Ventura County Superior Court, returning to NLSLA in 2012 to direct a variety of program-wide systems for delivery of legal services.

Smith is survived by her children, Samuel and Adrianna, as well as her niece, Jamie, and her family. She is also survived by her three older brothers, Ralph, Danny and Brodie and younger sister, Cheryl.

ARTHUR ALFIO SILVERI (LLB 1949), 101, of Northridge, Calif., passed away Oct. 23, 2019. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

HON. WILLIAM L. "TED" TODD JR. (BA 1952, LLB 1957), 91, retired justice of the State of California Fourth District Court of Appeal passed away on Jan. 30, 2020, at his home in San Diego, Calif.

Born in Toronto, Todd grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Pasadena, Calif. While earning his undergraduate degree in political science at USC, he met his future wife, Paula; they married on July 7, 1954, and days before he started a two-year tour as a Marine lieutenant.

After graduation, Todd practiced law in Los Angeles and later founded his own law firm, Wingert Grebing LLP. In 1974, then-Gov. Ronald Reagan selected Todd as one of his final judicial appointees. He served with distinction as a trial court judge until 1986. Gov. George Deukmejian later appointed him to the Fourth District Court of Appeal, where he served until 1994.

Todd is survived by his wife; children, Tracy, Kathryn and Christopher; grandchildren, Clark, Craig, Iris, Molly, Leigha, Andrew, Brian, Kendall, and Delaney; and great-grandchildren, Maeve and Naomi.

EXPANDING CAREER HORIZONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

USC Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy, and Ethics supports scholars with mental health challenges by partnering with national mentorship program

By Leslie Ridgeway

The USC Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy, and Ethics has entered into a partnership supporting higher education for students with psychiatric and psychosocial disabilities, as part of Pearson Education's Corporate Disability Mentorship Program.

The mentorship program was launched in 2016 by Pearson, the international education publishing and assessment company, initially in partnership with the National Federation of the Blind. It was expanded in 2018 to students with mental health challenges after

Elyn Saks



discussions with Pearson officials, Elyn Saks, Saks Institute founder and faculty director, and Christopher Schnieders, director, who both sit on Pearson's Disability Mentorship Advisory Council, which comprises leaders in disability, education and diversity communities.

The mentorship program seemed a logical extension of the Saks Institute's annual Student Scholars program, which supports JD and interdisciplinary PhD candidates as they establish careers in law and mental health. The goal is to offer the mentorship program to USC students seeking professions both in and outside of law, expanding career opportunities for people with mental health disabilities with plenty of potential but lacking the resources and support to succeed.

"The idea of this program catching on and growing to other businesses is our dream," Saks says.

The third cohort of the mentorship program at USC begins in fall 2020, incorporating lessons learned from the first two cohorts that took place in spring and fall 2019, lasting one semester each. Both Saks and Schnieders mentored students in the two pilot semesters and identified opportunities for improvement.

"We feel very positive learning from our past two cohorts," Schnieders says. "We plan to begin a two-semester program. It takes time for the students and mentors to connect, for the relationships to form."

The mentorship program at Pearson began as a three-month virtual mentoring project

Elyn Saks (right) with author Esme Weijun Wang at a recent Saks Institute Fall Distinguished Lecture.

matching disabled students and recent graduates with Pearson employees. The program is intended to meet an unaddressed need for disabled students within the legal profession, said Bjarne P. Tellmann, general counsel and chief legal officer at Pearson, who helped establish the Pearson program.

“Two-thirds of disabled college students never graduate*,” he says. “Those who do face unemployment rates of 70 percent or more, and those that get work are often in low-skill jobs way below what they’re qualified to do.”**

“The thing we thought we could do to help was to match legal professionals with 30-50 students who are disabled in some form. It appears that, in many cases, disabled students’ role models are from the activist space, which is great, but we wanted to pair them with professionals outside of that space as well so that they become exposed to as broad a range of career options as possible.”

The program matches students with mentors and “super mentors,” disabled people who have established successful careers, like Haben Girma, the first deaf-blind student to graduate from Harvard Law School and who works as a disability rights attorney. The mentors inspire students and help them connect with the resources they need to succeed in their academic programs, such as accessibility to disability-appropriate educational materials. Elizabeth Goueti, counsel for higher education at Pearson Canada, joined Saks and



Schnieders in mentoring a USC student last year and saw firsthand the difference that access to resources made.

The student “would raise points to us about things she was struggling with, like resolving a conflict at work, or navigating an uncomfortable situation,” Goueti says. “She needed someone to bounce ideas off of. Often in the mental health community people want help but don’t know who to ask or what questions to ask. Through Elyn and Chris students can leverage [their expertise] and programs to assist in getting resources.”

Goueti noted that the Saks Institute, with its established relationships within the disability community, is in a unique leadership position to influence the direction of the program.

“The Saks Institute can speak to individuals in the community who have a disability or are trying to overcome one,” she said. “They can bring voices within the disability community to the corporate table.” 📌

***“The Low Number of Students With Disabilities Graduating From College Is A Crisis,” Huffington Post, 2017*

***Persons with a Disability: Labor Force Characteristics–2019, Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 2020*

AALS HONORS ELYN SAKS WITH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Prof. Elyn Saks, faculty director and founder of the Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy and Ethics, was recently feted by the Association of American Law Schools, which established the Elyn R. Saks Distinguished Service Award in her honor at its annual meeting Jan. 2-5 in Washington, D.C.

“I am so honored and delighted to have received the AALS award, and even more that the section will honor every year a law professor in the mental health law space,” says Saks. “It’s something very gratifying to me. I couldn’t be prouder.”

The award is one of around 20 section awards given out each year by several of AALS’ 104 sections, which include law

faculty in different academic disciplines and interest areas. Saks was honored for her outstanding contributions to the study and understanding of mental disability.

Saks applauded AALS for its appreciation of legal scholars and their work in the mental health sphere.

“Recognizing people for their good work in this arena is bound to improve things in the world of people with mental health challenges and their families and friends,” she says. “I hope my own work has, in some small way, done this, and I look forward to the contributions that others in this section will make in the years to come.” 📌

In a word, revolution

Professor Jody Armour publishes new book, *N*gga Theory: Race, Language, Unequal Justice, and the Law*

By Leslie Ridgeway

There's agreement these days on both sides of the ideological divide that America's criminal justice system is long overdue for an overhaul.

One of the strongest, most persistent voices for reform comes from USC Gould Professor Jody Armour, who for decades has championed the rise of the “progressive prosecutor” movement as well as what some would consider radical ideas about mass incarceration and the restorative power of language.

Armour, Roy P. Crocker Professor of Law, makes a novel case for change in his latest book, *N*gga Theory: Race,*

Language, Unequal Justice, and the Law, to be published by LARB Books, the publishing division of the Los Angeles Review of Books, on Aug. 18, 2020 (now available on preorder at LARBBooks.org). The book's foreword is written by Larry Krasner, district attorney of Philadelphia and a leading “progressive prosecutor.” Melina Abdullah, professor at California State University, Los Angeles, and a co-founder of the Los Angeles chapter of Black Lives Matter, wrote the introduction.

The book, Armour says, points out a factual error in civil rights scholar Michelle Alexander's groundbreaking 2010 book *The New Jim Crow*, which argues that the so-called war on drugs is an expansion of the post-Civil War laws enacted by states and localities to create systematic racial discrimination.

Alexander's claim that racialized mass incarceration resulted from the arrest and conviction of mostly low-level non-violent drug offenders overlooks the fact that most people in state prisons (where most prisoners reside) have been convicted of violent and serious crimes, Armour says, arguing for a radical transformation of the way American society thinks about violent criminals.

“Racialized mass incarceration is not just cell blocks brimming with Black bodies,” Armour says. “It's a pervasive and deep-seated way of talking and thinking about morality, law and politics in matters of blame and punishment; it's a punitive impulse and retributive urge that runs so strong and deep in most Americans that taming it will take a revolution in consciousness.”

To achieve that end, Armour's book employs the phenomenon of moral luck to humanize what he calls “the most otherized, monsterized criminals,” pushing back strenuously on deeply-rooted beliefs that there is a moral chasm between violent criminals (“them”) and law-abiding citizens (“us”). These beliefs are perpetuated by the legal system itself — supposedly designed to protect citizens from unjust treatment.

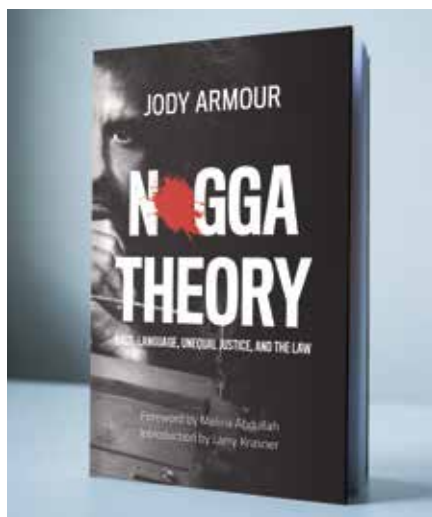
“Legally, N*gga Theory roots out where bias lives in the black-letter law and adjudication of just deserts; that is, it shows how murderers and other morally condemnable criminals are not merely ‘found’ in criminal trials like discoverable facts of nature, but rather they are socially constructed, often by racially biased prosecutors, judges and jurors,” Armour says.

The book also takes a political stance on the N-word, which Armour asserts carries a unique potential to heal within the Black community.

“When wielded with care and precision by critical Black writers and artists, the troublesome and disreputable ‘N-word’ can signal a sharp rejection of respectability politics, promote political solidarity with the most reviled Black criminals and spark a revolution in consciousness about racialized mass incarceration,” he says.

Armour's book is the culmination of more than seven years of research originating with the publication of “Nigga Theory: Contingency, Irony, and Solidarity in the Substantive Criminal Law” in the *Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law* in 2014. Armour focused the paper on the N-word, which he calls a “metaphor for Black wickedness” that he employs “to probe the intersection of morality, race and class in matters of blame and punishment and politics.”

Professor Jody Armour's book uses the phenomenon of moral luck to humanize what he calls “the most otherized, monsterized criminals” and pushes back against beliefs perpetuated by the legal system itself.



A sweeping look at transgender rights

Professor David Cruz co-writes groundbreaking casebook, “*Gender Identity and the Law*”

By Carren Jao

Professor David Cruz says his book “*Gender Identity and the Law*” is motivated by “the idea that none of us should be restricted in what we’re allowed to do and how we’re allowed to flourish based on sex or gender.”

Professor David B. Cruz first met a transgender person as a 16-year-old attending a youth discussion program at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Orange County. He recalled the speaker, a transgender woman, speaking frankly about her inner life and her medical transition to align her body with her gender identity. Since then, transgender people have figured prominently in his life, including a high school friend and a young relative.

This experience, combined with his work in equal marriage rights for same-sex couples and constitutional law, led him to a monumental project: “*Gender Identity and the Law*,” the first casebook of its kind. Co-authored with civil rights attorney Jillian Weiss, former executive director of the Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund, this undertaking is the result of more than a decade of study. Publication is scheduled for fall 2020.

Cruz started offering his course on transgender legal issues at USC Gould School of Law in 2010. However, his interest intensified in the last three years, as transgender issues became more high-profile in society and civil rights protections swung from one end of the spectrum to another with the transition from the Obama administration to the Trump administration.

A DAUNTING, BUT WORTHWHILE, TASK

In spring 2017, Cruz used his sabbatical semester to flesh out a sample chapter — the tome’s longest — on employment discrimination. The chapter covers legal developments and theoretical issues and has “lots of practical impact for people,” Cruz says.

“Without the ability to maintain a legal job, it makes it difficult to provide for oneself, to secure medical transition assistance ... to not get into illegal economies.”

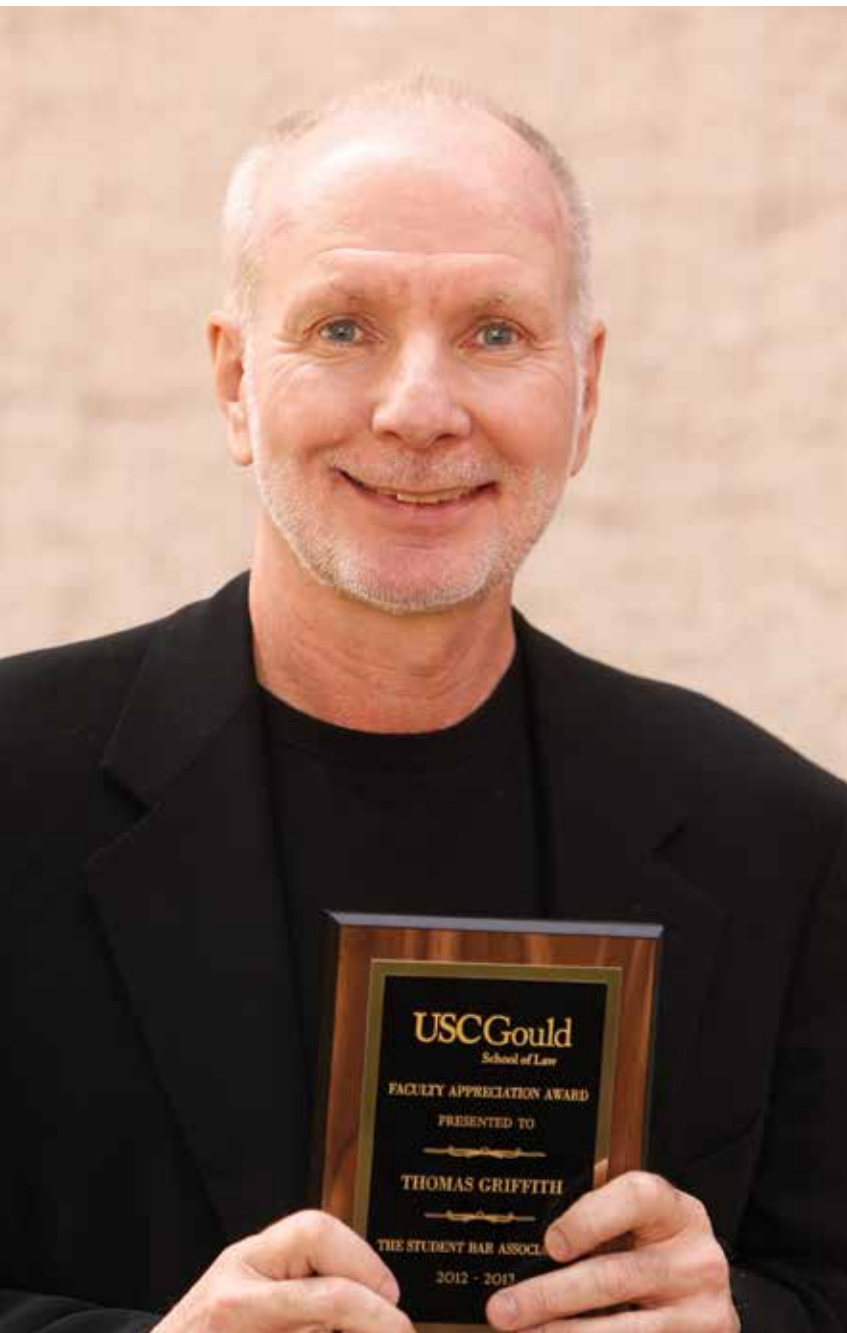
From there, Cruz and Weiss completed a full book proposal, including a table of contents, which was eventually accepted by Carolina Academic Press. The result is a sweeping and thorough look at the many issues facing transgender people, from a foundational chapter on sex and gender variation reaching as far back as ancient times, to medical conceptions of sex and gender to just about every aspect of the law including health care inclusion and discrimination, family law and student rights.

The task of researching, thinking over and setting down to paper centuries’ worth of concepts and cases surrounding transgender people was daunting, but Cruz says his motivation stems from “the idea that none of us should be restricted in what we’re allowed to do and how we’re allowed to flourish based on sex or gender.”

In writing his book, Cruz looks to the future generation of lawmakers to help create a better world.

“If we begin to educate more and more law students who go out into the world and become part of the legal system ... then we can move to a place where we are treating all people more equally and fairly,” he says. ✊





The Life

Thomas Griffith has been teaching for almost as long as he can remember. Now, after more than three decades as a professor at USC Gould School of Law, he is stepping out of the classroom to pursue a new life chapter: retirement.

An award-winning professor who facilitated the school's academic support program, Griffith has enjoyed helping students from all walks of life realize their potential to succeed in law school.

"I feel, for many students, taking academic support courses allowed them to demonstrate the understanding of law they already had," he says. "It wasn't that I was teaching them things they didn't know, but teaching them how to successfully transfer what they knew to a successful exam essay."

Griffith realized teaching was his calling when, as a high school student, he helped teach his grandmother's summer school classes. After graduating from Brown University he took a teaching job at a high school in Connecticut, and after seven years he decided to give something new a try: law school. He enrolled at Harvard University the following year, his sights set on becoming a law professor.

For all three years of law school, he found time to teach — as a teaching assistant for undergraduates and as a legal writing instructor. After graduating he accepted an associate position at Hill & Barlow in Boston, Mass., before joining the USC Gould faculty in 1984.

At Gould, Griffith specialized in income tax and criminal law and taught courses in contracts, corporate taxation, criminal law, criminal procedure and federal income taxation.

His early research focused on tax law through a lens of social justice. Reflecting USC's spirit of interdisciplinary scholarship, he wove insights from moral philosophy into tax law — "which was not prominent before he brought it here," says Scott Altman, Virginia S. and Fred H. Bice Professor of Law.

Griffith's published works include explorations of racial and socioeconomic bias in the criminal justice system, and happiness as a gauge for the optimal level of income redistribution.

Thomas Griffith's passion for helping students excel in law school earned him recognition for his support.

USC Gould celebrates Thomas Griffith, John B. Milliken Professor of Taxation, for more than 30 years of leadership and commitment to students

time Professor

By Larissa Puro

His 1987 paper “Social Welfare and the Rate Structure: A New Look at Progressive Taxation” in *California Law Review*, co-authored with Joseph Bankman, analyzes arguments against progressive taxation and proposes a new model to calculate the most desirable tax rate. It ranks fifth among the most-cited tax articles of all time.

A PILLAR OF SUPPORT

Helping students excel in law school became a passion for Griffith. When he arrived at USC Gould, there was little academic support, he says. “We didn’t have full-time staff for students who didn’t do well their first semester. Some students come to law school and don’t know how to take law school exams. It has little to do with the lack of ability, they just weren’t sure what’s expected for a law school exam.”

He began voluntarily teaching a weekly tutorial and its success led USC Gould to formalize support efforts into its academic programs. Together with Emeritus Professor Rob Saltzman, Griffith spearheaded the school’s academic support program to help students effectively study for, and take, law school exams. The result was improved grades and rising bar passage rates.

In 2009 Griffith received the school’s William A. Rutter Distinguished Teaching Award and in 2014 he was honored with a USC Associates Award for Excellence in Teaching.

As a mentor, Griffith is an enduring inspiration for his students, including alumna Michelle Layser (JD 2009), who worked with him on an independent tax research paper while she was a student.

“Tom was the first to show me how tax law is inextricably linked to the values and structures of our society,” Layser says. “That basic insight and approach to studying tax law has deeply influenced my own scholarship, and I feel confident that I simply would not be where I am today — a tax professor at University of Illinois College of Law — if not for Tom.”

DRIVING DIVERSITY

Griffith’s legacy includes shaping USC Gould into a welcoming and attractive place for students of all economic, racial and underrepresented backgrounds, says University Professor Alexander Capron. “His methods and thinking are in our DNA here.”

As Gould celebrates its 120th year, Griffith says he is impressed with many positive changes at the school and university — most notably an increase in diversity.

“When I came here there were very few people of color among students,” he says, remembering a time in the early 1990s when the number of students of color jumped into the double digits. “That’s been a major improvement, and not just in the sense of fairness, but it improves the educational experience for all students to have a diverse student body.”


He also notes growth in the number of women at the school — there is now gender parity among students at USC Gould.

One thing that has stayed the same, though, is the caliber of the students, he says. “I think people have the same goals, traits and needs as when I came in. They were great back then and great now.”

Griffith leaves behind an indelible legacy at USC Gould as an educator, mentor, leader and scholar, says Dean Andrew Guzman.

“We owe Tom a great deal for the time and effort he has invested to help us build and sustain excellence at Gould.... While we are very happy for Tom as he begins a new chapter of his life, it is difficult to say farewell to a colleague and friend who has been so integral in shaping the law school into the place it is today.”

Griffith says he will miss teaching but is looking forward to stepping away from the classroom and into a new house he is building with his wife in Washington, next door to their best friends.

Looking back on his professional journey, he says, “It certainly has been a dream career for me.” 

BRINGING THE REAL WORLD INTO THE CLASSROOM

How two changemakers in SoCal health care prepare students for a rapidly evolving industry

By Christina Schweighofer

Over the course of their careers in hospital management, USC Gould Lecturers in Law Sheniece Smith and Susan Taylor have seen the industry grow ever more complex. Both Smith and Taylor have significantly impacted how health care is delivered in Southern California. They now bring their expertise to the classroom, with the goal of helping students succeed in their careers.

Smith, who teaches “Health Law and Policy,” is the vice president and general counsel for Hannibal Regional

Given the fluidity and growing complexity of health care, Taylor and Smith have made it their goal to equip students with a solid understanding of substantive law and the skills to adapt to change.

Healthcare System in Hannibal, Mo. She previously spent more than 10 years in the legal department at Children’s Hospital Orange County where she launched a family legal assistance program that provides free guardianship and conservatorship services to families who otherwise cannot afford them.

Taylor teaches “Health Care Law, Business and Finance.” She is the CEO of College Hospital Costa Mesa. Passionate about issues of mental health and substance abuse, Taylor changed how mental health care is delivered in Orange County when she launched a crisis stabilization unit at College Hospital. Patients with an acute need for stabilization can now receive prompt psychiatric services without in-patient hospitalization.

Both lecturers draw on their own experiences to teach students how the law might apply to current issues and real-life situations. Smith covers topics ranging from bioethics and telemedicine to physician relationships and informed consent, which is where her experience with family legal assistance has proven especially useful. All aspects of her practice have been pertinent in class, including bankruptcy.

“It seems it would be irrelevant to a hospital — but it’s not, because we have patients who filed bankruptcy. Health care touches all things because it has to do with people,” she says.

Taylor, who appreciates the real-time aspect of teaching health care law, dedicates one full week to the Affordable Care Act in her class. Recently, she also referenced the novel coronavirus in a lecture about disaster preparedness as a factor in the licensing and certification of health care facilities. Mental health care, homelessness and the opioid



Sheniece Smith (left) and Susan Taylor draw on their own experiences to teach students how the law could apply to current issues and real-life situations.

epidemic — her specialty topics — feature in the context of funding, reimbursements and delivery systems.

“It’s exciting to be able to weave things together in the instructional materials and live sessions and to provide students with up-to-date news articles and links,” she says.

Given the fluidity and growing complexity of health care, Taylor and Smith have made it their goal to equip students with a solid understanding of substantive law and the skills to adapt to change. Even in the first week of her course, Taylor covered foundational concepts regarding financial management: What should financial managers focus on? Where is their responsibility? She also addressed leadership characteristics like truthfulness, honesty and emotional intelligence.

Smith wants to see her students get comfortable with any health care topic and learn to solve problems. For their final project, students are assigned a hypothetical but

reality-based problem that they must analyze for relevant applications of the law and then solve.

“I simulate the types of complex problems presented to me and guide them through effectively presenting solutions to their audience,” Smith says.

Smith’s and Taylor’s courses are available through the Master of Studies in Law and the Master of Laws programs. They also count toward a health care compliance certificate, which can be acquired in addition to or separately from an MSL or LLM degree. Students in the classes come from professionally diverse backgrounds; they are paralegals, attorneys, farmers, physicians and, in many cases, already employed in the health care, pharmaceutical or biotech industry.

“They bring their own qualifications to the table and end up significantly contributing to the course,” Taylor says. 📌

Scholarship & Research

SELECT RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Jonathan Barnett

“Patent Tigers and Global Innovation”
Regulation (2019)

Ariela Gross (with Alejandro de la Fuente)
Becoming Free, Becoming Black: Race, Freedom, and Law in Cuba, Virginia, and Louisiana
Cambridge University Press (2020)

Felipe Jiménez

“A Formalist Theory of Contract Law Adjudication”
Utah Law Review (Forthcoming)

Dorothy Lund (with Natasha Sarin)
“The Cost of Doing Business: Corporate Crime and Punishment Post-Crisis”
University of Pennsylvania, Institute for Law & Economics Research Paper No. 20-13 (2020)

Thomas D. Lyon (with Shanna Williams and Kelly McWilliams)
“Children’s concealment of a minor transgression: The role of age, maltreatment, and executive functioning”
Journal of Experimental Child Psychology (2020)

Emily Ryo (with Ian Peacock)

“Jailing Immigrant Detainees: A National Study of County Participation in Immigration Detention, 1983-2013”
Law & Society Review (2020)

Robert Rasmussen and Michael Simkovic

“Bounties for Errors: Market Testing Contracts”
Harvard Business Law Review (2020)

Nomi Stolzenberg

“From Eternity to Here: Divine Accommodation and the Lost Language of Law”
The Oxford Handbook of Law and the Humanities
(edited by S. Stern, M. Del Mar, and B. Meyler) (2019)

Abby K. Wood (with Christian Grose)

“Randomized experiments by government institutions and American political development”
Public Choice (2019)

AWARDS & NOTES

Prof. Edward D. Kleinbard delivered a keynote presentation at the New York State Bar Association’s Tax Section Annual Meeting in January.

Prof. Lisa Klerman was inducted as a Distinguished Fellow to the International Academy of Mediators.

Prof. Emily Ryo’s paper — “Predicting Danger in Immigration Courts” — was named to the list of top 10 most downloaded articles of 2019 in the American Bar Foundation journal, *Law & Social Inquiry*. In addition, Prof. Ryo’s 2019 American Immigration Council report — “Changing Patterns of Interior Immigration Enforcement in the United States, 2016–2018” — was cited in an issue brief addendum submitted to the U.S. House Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship in 2019.

Prof. Ariela Gross was elected as a fellow of the Society of American Historians.



CLINICAL PERSPECTIVES 2020



INSPIRING PASSION FOR JUSTICE

USC Post-Conviction Justice Project celebrates 40 years of leading the way in education and reforms

By Leslie Ridgeway

Heidi Rummel, co-director of the Post-Conviction Justice Project, in a meeting with student Alex Kirkpatrick (JD 2017) and client Marvin Mutch. With PCJP's representation, Mutch won parole after serving 40 years in prison for a crime he did not commit.

When USC Gould's Post-Conviction Justice Project got its start in the early '80s, clinical programs in law schools were scarce. Forty years later, PCJP is one of the most enduring and influential clinical programs in the nation. It has led the way in parole reform and shaped and fought for legislation and policies, creating meaningful second chances for incarcerated women and youth offenders. For hundreds of law students and the faculty who mentored them, PCJP has inspired a lifelong passion for the pursuit of justice.

"Our program grows students into lawyers," says Professor Heidi Rummel, PCJP's co-director, who came to USC Gould in 2006. "The law students take ownership of all aspects of their cases, from client relationships to legal strategies to meeting court deadlines. They come to us as students and leave ready to practice law."

BREATHING LIFE INTO CLASSROOM THEORY THROUGH LEGAL PRACTICE

PCJP, along with other clinical programs at USC Gould, owes its existence to Yale Law School's Denny

Curtis, clinical Professor Emeritus who founded PCJP in 1981 to represent clients serving federal sentences at nearby FCI Terminal Island. Curtis joined current PCJP co-director Michael Brennan and clinical Professor Lee Campbell, then at USC, and helped recruit Professors William Genego, Carrie Hempel, Denise Meyer, Noel Ragsdale and Chuck Weisselberg to give students direct responsibility to represent clients under close faculty supervision and mentorship. Students fought for justice for individual clients and also gained a deeper understanding of legal and social issues in the criminal justice system.

"The idea is to have students understand substantive legal principles and the obligations of lawyers through seeing, first-hand, how the law operates on your clients; what needs to change, and how, from an organizational and structural point of view, to bring about change," says Curtis. Clinical legal education, he adds, was "really a question of helping students to learn how to practice law, how actually to make things happen for the benefit of your client, and how law worked on the ground. That had not usually been part of law school."

In the 1970s, when Curtis started at Yale and then in the 1980s at USC, "no one knew what clinical education was. Law schools now compete with each other on the strength, efficacy and reach of their clinical programs. It's such a constitutive part of the law school experience."

PAROLE REFORM SUCCESSES: A PCJP HALLMARK

In 1994, in response to changing federal laws, PCJP's focus shifted from the representation of clients serving federal sentences to women serving indeterminate sentences at the California Institution for Women. Brennan, together with Hempel, who joined PCJP in 1993, recognized a pressing need for representation and reforms for women who had been convicted of serious crimes related to a history of intimate partner violence. PCJP focused its efforts on assisting the incarcerated women with medical care, parole and habeas petitions, Hempel says.

Obtaining release on parole for clients was a bleaker prospect. Since the late 1980s, California's parole release rate was less than one percent. But PCJP students continued to fight for their deserving clients' releases, in administrative hearings and in court challenges. Finally, in 2008, PCJP won a landmark victory in the *In re Lawrence* case and dramatically changed outcomes for California life-term prisoners.

As Brennan explains, PCJP filed a habeas corpus petition challenging the governor's fifth reversal of a parole grant for longtime client Sandra Davis-Lawrence. To everyone's surprise, the California Court of Appeal adopted PCJP's novel legal argument and granted the petition, releasing Lawrence after 24 years in prison. The California Supreme Court's decision affirming the Court of Appeal changed the landscape for parole decisions in California and spread hope throughout the prison system that true rehabilitation could earn release on parole. In the 10 years prior to the *Lawrence* decision, PCJP won release for eight clients. Since *Lawrence*, more than 150 PCJP clients have been released through the parole process.

"California moved from releasing less than 5 percent of prisoners to more than a third of eligible prisoners, and retained a one percent recidivism rate," Brennan says. "That was the biggest change in the law that we were involved in. Obviously it was pretty gratifying."

FIGHTING ON FOR FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE

Today, PCJP students and faculty continue to fight for second chances for deserving clients and advocate for fairness in California's criminal justice system. They conduct workshops in prisons across the state to motivate and educate people who have been incarcerated since they were teens. PCJP students, faculty and former clients travel to Sacramento to testify at legislative committee hearings and meet with legislators on important policy reforms.

Weisselberg, founding director of the Center for Clinical Education at UC Berkeley Law, applauds USC Gould for its continued support of PCJP and clients who often have no other legal avenue. 📌

The full version of this story is available online at:
gould.usc.edu/about/news/?id=4683

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout its 40-year history, the USC Post-Conviction Justice Project has worked closely with state legislators and criminal justice reform advocates to enact legislation establishing more equity and fairness in laws guiding sentencing and parole.

2018: PCJP co-sponsors SB 1391, which prevents the transfer of youth under the age of 16 to adult court.

2017: Gov. Jerry Brown signs into law two juvenile justice bills co-sponsored by PCJP: SB 394, extending youth offender parole eligibility to children serving life-without-parole sentences, and AB 1308, raising the age for youth offender parole eligibility to 25 years.

2015: PCJP drafts and co-sponsors SB 261, which raises the age for youth offender parole eligibility to 22 years; PCJP co-sponsors and lobbies for SB 382, revising the fitness criteria for juveniles to be transferred to adult court.

2013: PCJP co-sponsors and successfully lobbies for passage of SB 260, creating the youth offender parole process to provide an opportunity for juveniles sentenced as adults to be eligible for release on parole.

2012: After seven years of advocacy, the Fair Sentencing for Youth Act (drafted and co-sponsored by PCJP) is signed into law, creating a process for juveniles sentenced to life without the possibility of parole to petition for resentencing to a parole-eligible term.

2012: PCJP is influential in the passage of the "Sin by Silence" bills supporting survivors of intimate partner violence who are convicted of violent crimes. These include AB 593, expanding the scope of habeas relief for individuals with a history of battering related to their crime, and AB 1593, requiring the parole board to give great weight to a history of intimate partner violence in parole suitability decisions.

2008: PCJP wins California Supreme Court landmark case *In re Lawrence*, redefining judicial review of parole denials, in the first decision where the Court rules in favor of a prisoner in a parole case.

2001: PCJP takes lead role in enactment of California Penal Code § 1473.5, creating habeas relief for individuals convicted of murder prior to the admissibility of expert testimony on intimate partner violence (formerly Battered Women's Syndrome) to obtain a new trial where such evidence may have resulted in a different outcome.



FORGING A LEGAL PATHWAY TO RESETTLEMENT

USC International Human Rights Clinic students help Syrian refugees escape persecution

By Diane Krieger

After four years in limbo, Abdulbaset Nasri, his wife, Janan, and their four children are safe in Italy.

The good news caught their lawyer, Natalia DaSilva, completely off guard.

“I was so excited. I was with colleagues and I just had to tell everybody,” says DaSilva, now a staff attorney with Legal Services of Northern California.

Eighteen months had passed since DaSilva worked on the Syrian family’s refugee resettlement claim. Back then she was a second-year law student with USC Gould’s International Human Rights Clinic on a spring break legal-aid mission to Lebanon.

By the time the email from the clinic’s director, Prof. Hannah Garry, announced the outcome in late 2019, DaSilva had already graduated and taken the California bar.

The passage of time, however, had not diminished her affection for the Nasris.

“I still reread that email and tear up a little bit. It means a lot to me,” says DaSilva, who earned both of her degrees at USC — her bachelor’s degree in 2016 and JD in 2019 — and now lives in Sacramento.

DaSilva and her classmate Bettina Tiangco (JD 2019), a Stanford graduate originally from San Diego, had worked around-the-clock on the Nasri family’s case through a nine-day field experience that puts USC Gould students at the epicenter of the world’s worst humanitarian crises. Now in its third year, the travel program is funded by alumnus Barry McCabe (JD 1977).

At the Beirut headquarters of the International Refugee Assistance Project — known as IRAP — the students hit the ground running in March 2018. On day one, DaSilva and Tiangco met with their clients to assess if they had a legal pathway to resettlement through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

“At that point the case file was quite thin,” says Garry, who organized the trip and supervised the students.

DaSilva and Tiangco spent long days in separate interviews with the Nasris, building out their dossier.

Abdulbaset Nasri, a carpenter from Aleppo, had been arrested, beaten and tortured repeatedly in Syria — often held for days or weeks. He had sheltered his wife from the ugliest details, but there was no holding back for the official refugee filing.

“They were opening up, trusting us with their stories, and we had no guarantees to offer that it would lead to anything fruitful,” says Tiangco, now an associate in the corporate department of Ropes & Gray LLP’s San Francisco office. “There were times when I felt very emotional, but I had to stay professional and honor their strength and grace.”

During breaks DaSilva, who speaks some Arabic, played alphabet games with the youngest child in another room. Aged 7 to 15 years old, the Nasri children were traumatized after witnessing horrific violence, including bombings and beheadings. One child had stopped speaking and was later diagnosed with epilepsy.

After a difficult journey from Syria to Lebanon over rough, mountainous terrain, they found they still weren’t safe in Beirut. Abdulbaset Nasri says Hezbollah, the Shia Islamist political party and militant group that controls large parts of South Beirut and Southern Lebanon, routinely followed and accosted him and made death threats against the family. His health was precarious after suffering food deprivation while in detention and sustaining nerve damage to his spine from severe beatings. He developed a heart condition requiring surgery.

Late into the night, the Gould students transcribed their interviews, meticulously prepared the family’s intake report and drafted their declarations. By the end of the trip, they had completed and filed the resettlement submission.

Months later, they recall, their initial petition was “deprioritized” — in effect, shelved — by UNHCR. But



IHRC students work late hours meeting with clients, transcribing interviews, preparing intake reports and drafting declarations.

IRAP resubmitted the case to Humanitarian Corridors, an Italian humanitarian visa program. That second submission was approved in late 2019.

USC Gould students Ashley De Vance (JD 2019) and Matt Saria (JD 2019) handled another Syrian refugee family's claim on the 2018 trip.

Fatima Yusif had fled Daraa, Syria, in 2015 with her three young children. Her husband, Salam, a hairdresser, had left two years earlier to avoid conscription in President Bashar al-Assad's army. When the family reunited in Beirut, all three children were malnourished. One could hardly walk due to rickets; another was at risk of going blind, having undergone unsuccessful eye surgery in Syria.

Their story also has a happy ending. After receiving a low priority designation from the UNHCR, the Yusifs' case, too, was resubmitted by IRAP and approved by Humanitarian Corridors. Last December, the family was relocated to Southern Italy, where the children are receiving the medical attention they need.

Setting the two wins in context, Garry notes that less than 1% of the world's refugees are so lucky.

"Fewer and fewer countries are willing to resettle them, while the number of refugees is increasing exponentially," she says. "It's near[ing] 30 million worldwide at this point."

"Being able to reach out to former students and let them know their hard work and zealous advocacy was successful — it's a pure joy."

IRAP Middle East Field Director Kathleen Norland List calls the USC Gould students' contributions "vital to the successful outcome in these cases."

"Their work was remarkably thorough and of a high quality, not just in their final product but throughout the process," she says.

Last spring, Garry returned to Beirut with all eight of the clinic's 2018-19 cohort. By the time their IRAP-sponsored cases conclude, they too will likely have graduated.

When and if she hears good news, Garry will immediately share it.

"Being able to reach out to former students and let them know their hard work and zealous advocacy was successful — it's a pure joy," she says. 🍷



BEYOND THE CLINICS AND PRACTICUMS

Two courses offer technology-related experiential learning opportunities to USC Gould students

By Greg Hardesty

USC Gould, a pioneer in developing real-world skills through its longstanding clinical and practicum program, recently introduced two technology-related courses that bolster experiential learning opportunities for its law students.

The two courses are “Counseling the Startup Company,” which was launched in 2002 and returned to the course list in 2019 and “Legal Innovations Lab,” introduced in spring 2020.

Both courses teach students to be leaders in technology-solution oriented legal arenas. The courses offer students an expanded menu of experiential learning opportunities, beyond the school’s well-established clinics, which give students outside-the-classroom experience in the legal fields of immigration, intellectual property and technology, international human rights, mediation, post-conviction justice, and small business. (USC Gould’s longstanding practicums cover access to justice, children’s legal issues, legislative policy, medical-legal partnerships, and veterans.)

“With experiential learning courses like these, students have opportunities beyond clinics and practicums to hone their real-world practitioner skills,” says Laura Riley, an adjunct assistant professor of law and director of experiential learning at USC Gould.

Mohan Nadig teaches “Counseling the Startup Company.” He is director of U.S. legal operations for ByteDance, an Internet technology company headquartered in Beijing whose core product is the news and information content platform Toutiao.

Nadig’s course explores the legal issues and business challenges that lawyers face when counseling startup companies, from entity formation, corporate governance, employment and compensation to negotiation of commercial transactions, intellectual property, and privacy and data security.

The course uses real-life examples from startup companies in California and is intended to provide a realistic view into the day-to-day practice of lawyers in the field.

Legal technology entrepreneur Dorna Moini, who graduated from USC Gould in 2012, teaches

“USC Gould has put a focus on law, technology, and innovation, and is definitely at the forefront in preparing students for the future of the practice.”



Laura Riley, adjunct assistant professor of law and director of experiential learning at USC Gould

Gould alumna Dorna Moini, co-founder of Documate, teaches the “Legal Innovations Lab.”

the “Legal Innovations Lab.” She is co-founder and CEO of Documate, a 2018 startup that offers document automation software that allows lawyers to streamline frequently used forms and documents without using any code.

Moini’s “Legal Innovations Lab” exposes students to areas of legal practice that help them develop skills to address emerging technology issues.

“We started with a session on product development and user-centered design,” Moini says. “We discussed the implications of artificial intelligence, big data and analytics on the practice of law. Students built legal applications using document automation. And we’re constantly discussing the implications of technology on expanding access to legal services.”

Speakers in Moini’s class have included the executive director of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and the general counsel of LegalZoom, who talked about regulatory issues. Moini’s company started as a platform for low- and moderate-income people. Documate created workflows for domestic violence survivors, tenants facing eviction and other areas not typically covered by legal documentation platforms.

Moini quickly realized the highest value it could provide to promote access to justice was to empower attorneys on the ground so they could build their own workflows and legal applications without any code.

“This class is not just about technology — it’s about thinking about the law in a new and innovative way,” Moini says. “It’s about coming up with out-of-the-box solutions for how we can better deliver legal services to everyone from pro bono clients to consumers to corporations.

“These skills will help students think differently, whether they are doing strictly legal work or recrafting a modern law practice,” Moini adds. “USC Gould has put a focus on law, technology, and innovation, and is definitely at the forefront in preparing students for the future of the practice.” 📌





A PASSION FOR BUSINESS

USC Small Business Clinic student helps actress set up nonprofit to help children of incarcerated parents

By Matthew Kredell



Six years ago, actress Ciera Payton started a passion project to bring arts programs to underserved areas of Los Angeles with a particular focus on providing mentorship to children whose parents or loved ones are incarcerated.

She called the project Michael's Daughter, based on her one-woman show of the same name that chronicled her relationship with her incarcerated father through a series of letters.

After landing her first series-regular role last year on the show *The Oval*, created by Tyler Perry, she felt it was time to use her platform to take her project to another level. Payton was referred to the Small Business Clinic by a friend, Elle Fersan, then-director of the USC Provost's Immigrants and Global Migration Initiative. Karen Shilyan,

a second-year law student, helped Payton turn her project into a foundation.

Shilyan has had a passion for small businesses since she was a child. Her parents started a towing company through which they set up contracts with different municipalities.

As refugees from Iran whose first language is not English, Shilyan's parents had difficulty understanding some of the legal language of these contracts. Shilyan's interest in the legal profession bloomed in high school and college when she helped her parents go

over these contracts and review emails to and from city representatives.

"One of the reasons I came to USC is because I knew it is more business-centered and had opportunities like the Small Business Clinic," Shilyan says. "It aligns with my interests of going into corporate work and working with small businesses like the one my family runs."

"HELPING A BUSINESS START WITH CONFIDENCE"

Shilyan's time with the Small Business Clinic began last summer and has continued throughout her second year in law school. She has worked with 15 to 20 clients.

In the spring semester, her focus turned to nonprofits, which present different challenges.

"For for-profit business, we are forming and organizing to make sure they are protected from any liability," Shilyan says. "With nonprofits, we're looking at compliance and making sure they're following all the rules to be tax-exempt organizations. Either way, it's rewarding because you're involved in helping a business start with confidence. But working with nonprofits is particularly rewarding because you're not only instrumental in setting them up but know they will be helping people in the future."

When Payton was a high school student in New Orleans, her father was sent to prison for drug possession.

"New Orleans is a highly spirited city with a lot of culture, music and art, but it also has a lot of poverty, drug addiction and alcoholism," Payton says. "Growing up there and seeing what my father went through with his addiction, I channeled my pain into something more productive and positive. I gravitated toward the arts and they made a big impact on my life."

Michael's Daughter already received funding from the City of Los Angeles to offer arts-based programs.

Top: Karen Shilyan

Bottom: Ciera Payton

The USC Small Business Clinic helped Ciera Payton turn Michael's Daughter into a foundation.

However, Payton had to pay tax on the grants she was receiving.

Shilyan helped her craft bylaws and submit the paperwork for Michael's Daughter to become a nonprofit, making the grants exempt from taxes. The work is supervised by Professor Michael Chasalow, director of the Small Business Clinic.

SOLID GUIDANCE LEADS CAREER CHOICE

"Having Professor Chasalow as a mentor has been instrumental in my personal development as well as career goals and what I hope to achieve," Shilyan says.

"Taking part in this clinic and working with clients has shown me that this is the career I want to pursue and that I'm fully able to do it."

Chasalow pointed out that Shilyan also helped Payton set up a limited liability company through which she could conduct her business activities in the entertainment industry.

"Karen's work for Ciera Payton spanned a range of the services provided by the Small Business Clinic," Chasalow says. "She provided excellent legal work that helped Ciera navigate the rules and regulations that govern both for-profit and nonprofit organizations."

Since Chasalow founded the Small Business Clinic in 2007, participating students have helped Los Angeles-area entrepreneurs form more than 1,000 entities, from partnerships to corporations. Approximately half of the 2,500 business owners served by the clinic have been women or minorities.

Payton loved working with Shilyan.

"She is amazing, so sweet and understanding and compassionate," Payton says. "Whenever you work with artists, our stuff can be a little complicated and convoluted because we're creatives. Karen understands that and she listened, was eager to learn about my mission and was very patient with me. I really feel



that she is going to do very well when she graduates and goes off to work in business law."

Payton is in the process of forming a board of directors for her foundation. In addition to saving on tax dollars, she will now be able to start accepting donations. This year she will be doing two workshops rather than one, and her next goal is to take some of the foundation's work into California prisons. By January 2021, she wants Michael's Daughter to start giving out scholarships to under-resourced students dealing with the impacts of parental incarceration.

"Now that I have a foundation, Michael's Daughter is more legitimate and solidified rather than just me as an individual trying to do these workshops here and there," Payton says. "People can get on board, see the work being done and where their donations are going."

Payton expresses her appreciation for USC Gould's help with the project.

"I'm so grateful to USC Gould for offering these services. I'm very lucky to have the support of the Small Business Clinic. It's such a great hidden gem and resource in Southern California." 📌



A HEALTHY DOSE OF HELP

Partnership with USC Gould Immigration Clinic, Children's Hospital Los Angeles and AltaMed brings legal-aid services to undocumented young patients

By Diane Krieger

Diego G. seems like a normal little boy — bright-eyed and bouncing with energy. Just a few months ago, though, he was weak and lethargic, hobbled by a congenital heart defect that, left untreated, could have been fatal.

The 6-year-old had arrived from Central America in September along with his asylum-seeking parents. Soon after, USC cardiologists performed lifesaving surgery at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

The care didn't end there, however.

Thanks to teamwork by CHLA and USC Gould's Immigration Clinic, Diego and his parents are now getting legal representation as they petition the U.S. government against removal.

The connection was made through an unusual collaboration between CHLA, AltaMed Health Services and USC Gould. Once a month, families coming to a CHLA clinic for community health services — everything from flu vaccinations to urgent care — are offered free on-site consultations with a mental health professional and a Gould Immigration Clinic staff attorney.

The idea is to address immigrants' multifaceted needs in concert, recognizing that they are fundamentally intertwined. "The mental and physical health of a child affects his ability to go through the immigration process," Immigration Clinic Co-Director Jean Reisz (JD 2004) says. "Likewise, the stress of

Pediatricians at Children's Hospital Los Angeles reached out to the USC Immigration Clinic to develop a partnership that offers free consultations with clinic staff attorneys and mental health professionals in addition to community health services.



“The mental and physical health of a child affects his ability to go through the immigration process... and our ability to prepare a defense and go to court.”

MEDICAL ASYLUM EXPLAINED

Diego's heart surgery won't shield his family from deportation. That's because "There's no such thing as medical asylum," says immigration lawyer Jean Reisz.

The asylum standard, Reisz explains, emerged in response to World War II and the Holocaust — and the need to protect people persecuted based on race, religion, political opinion or membership in a social group. It was designed to step in when local government couldn't or wouldn't control their oppressors.

"Not being able to get lifesaving treatment is not grounds for asylum because you have to show you are being persecuted," Reisz says.

The question, in 2020, is what constitutes persecution?

"What we're seeing in modern times is a whole bunch of other reasons people are displaced — maybe because they're indigenous, or have a serious birth defect, or are being discriminated against in state-run hospitals, or are refused treatment because of being different in some way," Reisz says.

immigration proceedings affects the physical and mental health of the child. In Diego's case, the patient needed lifesaving surgery, and he was able to get that at CHLA. But his health and well-being also affect his parents' ability to participate in immigration proceedings and our ability to prepare a defense and go to court."

PARTNERSHIP ADDRESSES UNMET NEED

The partnership began last fall after CHLA pediatricians John Harlow and Kevin Fang, both clinical faculty at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, reached out to Niels Frenzen, founding director of the USC Immigration Clinic. Frenzen put Reisz, his former student and now clinic co-director, in charge. Reisz also leads the law school's Immigration Detention and Appellate Clinic.

"Not only are children getting medical treatment but they're getting pro-bono representation, which really affects the likelihood of success for these kids," Reisz says. Reisz was once an Immigration Clinic law student under Frenzen and then returned as a staff attorney in 2014 after a decade working as a public defender and an associate at Archer Norris PLC.


VALUABLE EXPERIENCE FOR LAW STUDENTS

Once a month, Reisz, Frenzen and two other Gould staff attorneys take turns screening families at the CHLA clinic. Those they green-light for legal services are referred to one of 12 law students and scheduled for an intake interview on campus.

After participating in four CHLA clinics, the Immigration Clinic has already accepted a dozen new clients in four families. (Each asylum case is separate but consolidated by family.)

Diego and his parents were the first on board. In November, they were assigned to Sarah Taranto, a second-year law student originally from Nevada City, Calif. In late February, Taranto represented the family at a master calendar hearing, the first step in removal proceedings. She entered her appearance as their attorney and requested additional time for fact-finding.

Going forward, Taranto will need to familiarize herself with Diego's medical records so she can present relevant facts to the judge and handle the direct examination of any expert witnesses.

Experiences like these are the "most valuable part of my legal education so far. It really feels like I'm actually practicing law," says Taranto, who aspires to be a public defender someday. 

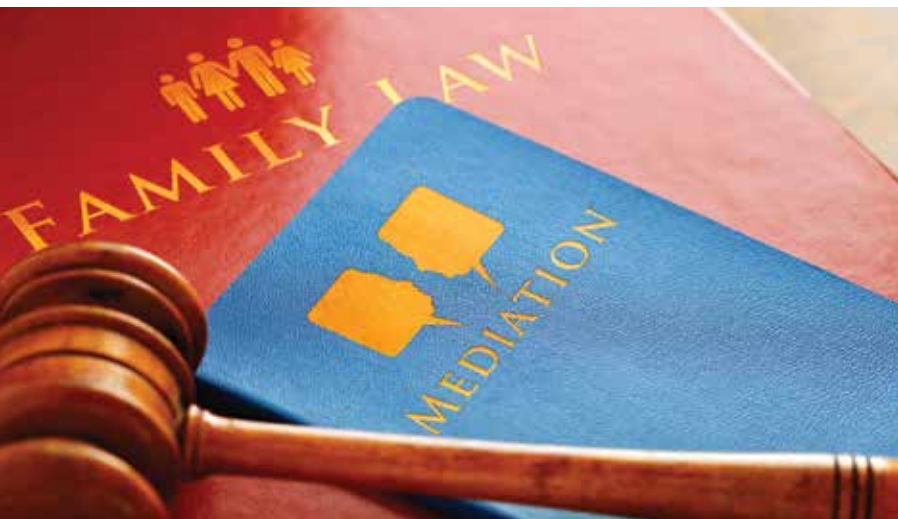


A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE

In a partnership with a local nonprofit, the Family Law Mediation Clinic helps facilitate communication between divorcing parents

By Christina Schweighofer

A couple of weeks into the 2020 spring semester, Amanda Clark (JD 2021) felt doubtful about her work in the Family Law Mediation Clinic. How would she cope with the pain visible in dependency mediations? How could she contain her own anger and remain neutral in cases with domestic violence? Wasn't she too young to relate to parents and their concerns?



What she didn't know yet was this: Dependency mediations transform people. They impact how mediators see themselves and how co-parents relate to each other and, by extension, to their children.

Clark's mindset changed only one month into the clinic. Working with experienced volunteer mediators from Southern California Family Mediation (SoCalFM), a court-connected program that partners with the Family Law Mediation Clinic at USC Gould, she had by then observed three co-parenting plan mediations and co-mediated another one successfully. She was feeling confident and optimistic.

"No matter what they have been through, the kids are often at the forefront of our mediation and that's really hopeful to me," she says.

The immediate goal of the mediations is to help the parties establish detailed and workable child visitation schedules after they have earned back their parental rights. But SoCalFM co-founder and president L. Randy Drew also sees long-term benefits.


"This is a transformative experience for parents," he says. "They have learned the skill of negotiating with each other and resolving conflict peacefully, something they will need as they raise their children and that they will pass on to them."

Clark's experience as a co-mediator at the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Courthouse validates this. After fighting about visitation schedules for one year, the parties in her case agreed on a plan in only two hours of mediation.

"They heard each other's words and understood what the other person was saying," Clark says.

Drew says that volunteer mediators in his nonprofit program have an agreement rate of more than 90 percent.

The partnership between USC Gould and SoCalFM was established in 2016 by Professor Lisa Klerman, the founder and director of the Mediation Clinic, and Lecturer in Law Marilyn Mordetzky, a commissioner for the Los Angeles Superior Court who teaches the family law mediation course. Mordetzky sees the co-mediations as an "amazing opportunity for students" that helps them hone their listening and collaboration skills. "As attorneys, they will know how to stay in communication mode and not give up, even with someone who might be a difficult opposing counsel," she says.

Noting that the program is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year, Klerman says, "No other program we run has such a significant and direct impact on families and lives in our community." 



THEY HANDLE THE TRUTH

USC Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic helps student documentarians navigate legal aspects of film

By Carren Jao

Documentary filmmaking is about telling a true story, but often truth is a thorny issue, which is why USC School of Cinematic Arts students are working with USC Gould School of Law Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic students to produce films that retain the integrity of the story while staying on the right side of the law.

Directed by Professor Jef Pearlman, the clinic offers second- and third-year law students the opportunity to work with real clients, navigating interpersonal dynamics and tackling weighty legal issues. The experience they get from the clinic is designed to help them prepare for their future legal careers. Guided by Pearlman, who oversees all the legal advice dispensed to the clinic's clients, law students think through challenging questions that deal with fair use, defamation, trademarks and contracts, to name a few.

While the clinic also offers its services to clients in need of pro bono assistance throughout the university and beyond, Pearlman says working with documentary filmmakers gives his students an opportunity to apply their understanding of fair use to real films.

"While the high-level task of advising a client on intellectual property issues is the same, the day-to-day focus is different," says Pearlman. "In documentary filmmaking, we deal more with questions of fair use and copyright — the use of other people's materials without permission and without paying — and defamation."

Clients last semester included student filmmakers making a documentary focused on the killing of Latasha Harlins, a 15-year-old African American girl fatally shot by a liquor store owner, Soon Ja Du. Her death, just 13 days after Rodney King's beating, is considered by many to be a catalyst for the Los Angeles civil unrest of 1992. The producer and director of *The Dope Years: The Story of Latasha Harlins* used short news clips and security



footage of the killing in the film, and licensing them commercially would have been too expensive for the students.

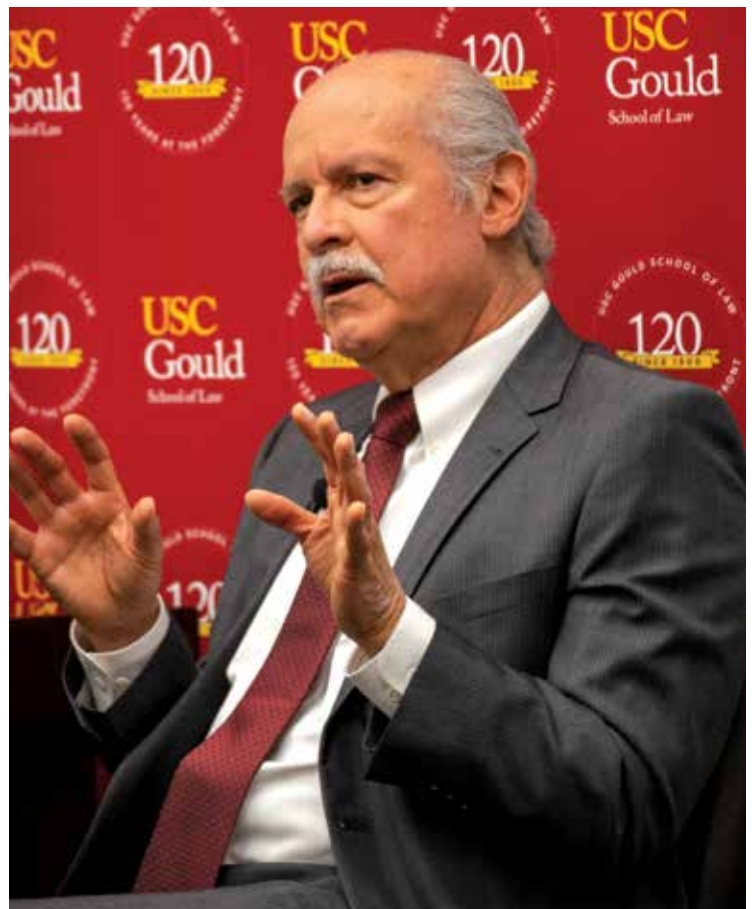
With the help of three clinic students — Tiffany Li (JD 2021), Tyler Fergusson (JD 2021) and Roark Luskin (JD 2021) — the filmmakers were able to confidently identify which materials they might be able to include in their documentary through the fair use doctrine. Pearlman's students worked with the filmmakers to ensure the film used the material in a way that meets the criteria of fair use.

With the use of archival news clips in *Dope Years*, Li says the team helped to strengthen the filmmakers' fair-use case for including this news footage — recommending that they add voice-overs from interviewees to contextualize the clips and convey how the events impacted their lives.

"It's been an amazing opportunity to get hands-on, real-world experience during the academic year," says Li. "I have a Bachelor of Fine Arts so it's been great to be able to combine my arts background and legal skills in the clinic by providing advice while staying true to our clients' artistic visions." 🍷



The USC Gould School of Law's academic year came to a close with a variety of informative and celebratory events. In late fall, KCRW's All The President's Lawyers returned for a second live podcast taping, featuring Lecturer in Law Susan Seager. Spring events included a lecture from Richard Cordray, first director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and the annual Nieman Sieroty Lecture featuring human rights expert Carlos Holguin, moderated by Prof. Emily Ryo. The USC Gould Alumni Association welcomed back 50-year-plus alumni for the annual Golden Trojans celebration, and Gould honored Samantha Rifkin, champion of the annual Hale Moot Court Competition, and several other high-achieving students.



What Will Your Trojan Legacy Be?



“[Gould] taught me to think like a lawyer. To think about the law and apply the law to the facts.” —CHARLES “CHUCK” BAKALY, JR. JD 1952

Charles “Chuck” Bakaly, Jr. (JD 1952), credits USC Gould with preparing him to become one of the nation’s top labor lawyers and a pioneer in alternative dispute resolution. An emeritus member of the Board of Councilors, Chuck is a steadfast supporter of the law school. He recently created an endowed fund through his estate for Gould’s fast-growing ADR program. The fund is named after Chuck and his late wife, Patty, who passed away last year after 65 years of marriage.

The Bakaly name is well known at USC. Two of Chuck’s three sons are Trojans: John (PhD, USC Rossier School of Education) and Tom (MPA, USC Sol Price

School of Public Policy). In 2017, Chuck celebrated his grandson Charles (Chase) Bakaly IV earning his JD from Gould.

“Besides his family, nothing means more to him than USC and the law school,” Chase said of his grandfather.

From donor-advised funds to lead trusts to gifts of cash, stock and other assets, there are numerous ways to leave a legacy. To create your own Trojan legacy, contact Margaret Anne Kean in the USC Gould Development and Alumni Relations office at (213) 821-6342 or mkean@law.usc.edu, or go to www.uscgould.giftplans.org

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calendar

Due to uncertainties about the coronavirus, please check gould.usc.edu/events for latest updates, as event details may be subject to change.

TROJAN FAMILY WEEKEND

October 8–11, 2020
Gould presentation October 8
Location TBA

LOS ANGELES TIMES FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

October 3–4, 2020
University Park Campus

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE)

All CLE events below will be virtual events.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INSTITUTE

September 22–23, 2020

**INSTITUTE ON ENTERTAINMENT
LAW AND BUSINESS**

October 17, 2020

REAL ESTATE LAW AND BUSINESS FORUM

October 29, 2020

TRUST AND ESTATE CONFERENCE

November 13, 2020

INSTITUTE FOR CORPORATE COUNSEL

December 2, 2020

TAX INSTITUTE

January 25–27, 2021

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