

USC MAGAZINE Law

FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF THE USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW ISSUE 17 | FALL/WINTER 2020



RIISING TO THE OCCASION

*In unprecedented moment,
Gould community takes action*

USC Gould



This past year has been filled with unprecedented challenges and changes. But in the face of difficulty, the members of the USC Gould School of Law – from alumni and students, to faculty and staff – have risen to the occasion.

They have answered the call to help their clients, the community and, of course, one another, under extraordinary circumstances. I hope this magazine serves as a proud reminder of the strength and perseverance of our Gould Trojan Family.

Among the stories in this special issue, we highlight the inspiring work — accomplished remotely — of our clinics and their students to help small businesses navigate new pandemic-related policies; help a brain cancer patient at Children's Hospital Los Angeles reunite with his parents from Mexico; and help provide legal guidance to a nonprofit startup that distributes donated personal protective equipment to hospitals nationwide. In addition, we spotlight the role of Gould alumni in contributing to Keck Medicine of USC's Care for the Caregiver program, which supports health care workers on the front lines.

We are also excited to share news of two transformative student scholarship gifts, each topping \$1 million. David Howard (JD 1970) and his wife, Susan, established a new scholarship complementing the support provided through the C. David Molina First-Generation Professionals Program. The new Rosalie and Harold Rae Brown Scholarship includes funding toward merit scholarships for law student applicants, with positive consideration given to students who self-identify as African American.

This magazine also covers the leadership and milestones of Gould alumni including: Ruth Lavine (LLB 1943), respected attorney and champion of women in law, who celebrates 100 years; Shannon Raj Singh (JD 2011), who was named human rights counsel at Twitter; Dario Avila (LLM 2017), who is leading an effort to deliver 3D-printed face shields to health care workers in Ecuador's capital; Karen Wong (JD 1986), a pioneer in the renewable energy field, who was named chair of Gould's Board of Councilors; and John Iino (JD 1987), chief diversity officer at Reed Smith, who now serves as president of the USC Alumni Association Board of Governors.

Also on display in this issue is the impact of our renowned faculty. We feature an article on Professor Franita Tolson's legal analysis of a proposed constitutional amendment on voting rights, and a profile on Professor Jody Armour, whose expertise was highly sought by the news media to give context to national protests for criminal justice reform and racial equity. Further, this magazine covers Professor Lisa Klerman's work to address domestic violence during the pandemic, and includes a special tribute honoring the life and legacy of Professor Ed Kleinbard, a foremost tax scholar, who passed away in June at age 68 following a brave battle with cancer.

I invite you to take a look at other notable stories including: a spotlight on Gould's talented JD Class of 2023, our most diverse and selective cohort to date; a glimpse into the creativity and collaborative efforts across the law school enabling us to transition to an online environment; and a newly launched project by a Gould student and a recent alum to send free art kits to Los Angeles-area schoolchildren in vulnerable communities amid COVID-19 restrictions.

As we begin a new year, I want to wish everyone good health, safety and many bright days ahead. Thank you for being part of our law school.

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*



FEATURE STORY

6 CHANGE AGENTS

Admissions and Financial Aid, Career Services and Graduate & International Programs respond to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.



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Gould School of Law

G&IP WELCOMES DIVERSE INCOMING CLASS ONLINE

Orientation featured vibrant schedule of events supporting new students

This fall, with COVID-19 ruling out the usual on-campus events, USC Gould's Graduate and International Programs' (G&IP) annual orientation went online, and administrators got creative about bringing students together to prepare them for law school.

"Because we're remote, we've had to think differently," says Ashley Sim, assistant director of admissions. "I looked at our past orientation events to see what we should continue to do and where we needed to make adjustments. Studies show people experience Zoom fatigue. We didn't want students sitting in front of their computers all day long, so we spread out events over a week."

This year's class includes students from more than 20 countries with varied backgrounds in patent law, data privacy, intellectual property, real estate, business and commercial law, employment law, law enforcement, health care, insurance, accounting, education, entertainment, labor relations and dispute resolution. This year, G&IP offered a new degree: the Master of Laws (LLM) in Privacy Law and Cybersecurity.

"It's a hot area of law," Sim says. "Students in the program may be

engaged in that area in their home countries, maybe for government agencies, and are looking to understand how to protect data and increase cybersecurity. We are excited to have that group start with us."

To accommodate several time zones, students were divided into two tracks, one for Asia and another for Europe, the Middle East and Latin America, with U.S. students choosing the track most convenient to them. Events in each track were duplicated as much as possible.

"In a way, online orientation gave us a fresh perspective on how to improve and enhance on-campus orientation in the future," Sim says.

Sessions included an alumni panel and registration drop-in hour, where students could speak with advisers. Students viewed pre-recorded videos on professionalism and plagiarism and Title IX on their own time. G&IP also scheduled a session on student organizations, clubs and leadership roles.

Another important aspect of orientation was teaching students to be successful online learners, getting them up to speed with technology

"In a way, online orientation gave us a fresh perspective on how to improve and enhance on-campus orientation in the future."

— Ashley Sim, assistant director of admissions, G&IP

requirements and offering IT drop-in hours and faculty workshops. As with every incoming class, G&IP takes into account the diversity and varying experience levels of the students and prepared a special workshop — Law School 101 — to teach students new to law how to read case law and give tips on taking notes and exams.

Associate Dean Misa Shimotsu-Kim says G&IP is looking forward to giving students the best education possible.

"We're working closely with a faculty committee to support and ensure the academic quality of our classes and

will offer myriad social engagement opportunities so that students can engage with our Gould community," she says. 🍷

—Yulia Nakagome



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OFFERS ATHLETIC COMPLIANCE SCHOLARS INTERNSHIP



1Ls Hailey Hoyt and Kyle White were this summer's Athletic Compliance Scholars.

USC Gould's Experiential Learning and USC's Office of Athletic Compliance this summer revived its partnership, an internship program known as Athletic Compliance Scholars. This year's scholars were Hailey Hoyt, a former competitive figure skater, and Kyle White, a former collegiate hammer thrower. The summer internship program, an addition to an existing semester-long externship offered by Experiential Learning, gives two students an opportunity to learn the ins and outs of the athletic compliance process, culminating in a two-week research project on a compliance-related topic. It is available to students between their 1L and 2L years, and for many law students, may be their first position in law. "This is an opportunity for them to gain exposure to, and hands-on experience in, work that's not covered in first year curriculum," says Assistant Professor Laura Riley, former director of experiential learning. "It's also nice for them to be able stay within the Trojan Family their first summer working." 📌

—Yulia Nakagome

USC GOULD PROFESSOR ELECTED AS SOCIETY OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS FELLOW

Ariela Gross, John B. and Alice R. Sharp Professor of Law and History at the USC Gould School of Law, was selected in April as a member of the Society of American Historians, an honorary society dedicated to literary distinction in the writing and presentation of history. The honor is another milestone in her accomplished career as a historian and professor. Only 10 to 20 fellows are admitted to the SAH each year. Gross' election to SAH comes as she is at work on a new book, *The Time of Slavery: History, Memory, Politics and the Constitution*. Gross has authored several other books on race and slavery in American law, including *Becoming Free, Becoming Black: Race, Freedom, and Law in Cuba, Virginia, and Louisiana* (Cambridge University Press), published in 2020 with co-author Alejandro de la Fuente. Her 2008 publication *What Blood Won't Tell: A History of Race on Trial in America* (Harvard University Press) won several awards. "I strive to write in a way that reaches more people, so I was honored to be elected to a society that's dedicated to historical work as a literary endeavor," says Gross. 📌

—Yulia Nakagome



GOULD QUOTABLES



“People talked about the problem before where you might have a constitutional right to get married, but then private employers might be able to fire you when they learn that you’re gay. Here, the Supreme Court says, the statute that’s already in place protects you.”

DAVID CRUZ on the landmark SCOTUS ruling protecting LGBTQ+ employees from discrimination, KNBC TV, June 15, 2020



“A world in which it makes sense for movie theaters to say they’re the victims of discrimination is a world that has lost all sense.”

NOMI STOLZENBERG on New Jersey movie theaters suing to remain open during the pandemic, *Variety*, July 7, 2020



“This Silicon Valley showdown provides the Supreme Court with the opportunity to break its silence and revisit the lower courts’ remaking of the fair use exemption.”

JONATHAN BARNETT on *Google LLC v. Oracle America, Inc.*, The Hill, Oct. 6, 2020

RICCA PRASAD (JD 2020) RESPONDS TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC WITH SUPPLY SKID ROW INITIATIVE

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Ricca Prasad (JD 2020) transformed her concern for Los Angeles' unhoused into action by creating Supply Skid Row, a volunteer initiative to deliver hygiene kits to LA's Skid Row area, and tent communities in Echo Park and Koreatown.

"With my health care knowledge and knowledge of urban communities and vulnerable populations, I knew it would be a bad situation, and much worse than for the rest of us," says Prasad, who enrolled in law school after earning undergraduate and graduate degrees in public health. "I knew that Skid Row would need all the help it could get because of the scale of the problem. If I was having trouble getting supplies, they must be as well." She put up the money herself for 100 hygiene kits for Skid Row residents, and then reached out to the Gould community, raising more than \$2,000 in five weeks and using the funds to order essential supplies wholesale for delivery to the social service agencies she worked with. She set up a Supply Skid Row Facebook page to keep donors apprised of her efforts.

Prasad enrolled in law school to enhance her health care background with legal skills as part of her career goal to develop policy for vulnerable populations in prisons, she says. 📌

—Leslie Ridgeway



Ricca Prasad prepares to deliver hygiene supplies to LA's Skid Row and tent communities in Echo Park and Koreatown.

FACULTY HONORS



Ron Garett — the Carolyn Craig Franklin Chair in Law and Religion, Emeritus, at USC Gould — received the 2020 Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award at the university's 39th annual Academic Honors Convocation, held online in October. The award is presented to a very select number of retired faculty in recognition of eminent careers and notable contributions to the university, the profession and the community. This year, Garett was one of only four recipients.

Garett is a pioneering interdisciplinary scholar whose work explores the intersection of law and religion. For more than 40 years, he established himself as a pillar of the Gould School and the USC community through his inspirational teaching, invaluable service and trailblazing research.

In addition, two other retired Gould professors were recently awarded emeriti faculty designations. Upon the recommendations of the law school, the university granted Tom Griffith the status of John B. Milliken Professor Emeritus of Law and Taxation, and Pauline Aranas has been named the John Stauffer Charitable Trust Chief Information Officer, Emeritus, and Law Librarian Emerita. 📌

—USC Law Magazine Staff

GOULD FACULTY NAMED TO USC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

USC Gould professors Jody Armour, Rebecca Lonergan and Robert Saltzman were recently named to the community advisory board for the USC Department of Public Safety. The board plays a vital role in helping strengthen trust between the university, DPS and the broader community; it also represents a key component of USC's renewed efforts to remedy broader social inequalities. 📌



Jody Armour



Rebecca Lonergan



Robert Saltzman

USC GOULD STUDENTS SELECTED FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FELLOWSHIPS

Four USC Gould students were named to prestigious fellowships, helping them advance their careers in public interest law.

Mirelle Raza, Class of 2021, is the first Gould student named as a Douglass Fellow at the Human Trafficking Institute, a nonprofit agency located in Virginia primarily focused on combating international human trafficking.

The Douglass Fellowship, which honors social reformer, abolitionist and writer Frederick Douglass' commitment to freedom, communication and advocacy, enables fellows to advocate, research and write on issues pertaining to human trafficking. Each fellow is paired with a mentor.

Raza's interest in human trafficking prevention started while an undergraduate sociology and women's and gender studies major at Santa Clara University, bolstered by an internship in the Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy.

Carson Scott (JD 2020) was named this year's Irmas Fellow, and is now working on the Immigrant Defenders Law Center litigation and advocacy team to help alleviate the humanitarian crisis at the U.S. border. The fellowship supports a Gould graduate for a full year in the area of public interest law. Fellows are chosen based on a commitment to a career in public interest law and how well their project provides legal services to low-income,

underrepresented or disenfranchised groups and individuals. The fellow is selected by Gould's Barbara F. Bice Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF).

As part of a new five-year partnership, two USC Gould students were selected for fellowships with the John Paul Stevens Foundation, working full-time summer internships in public interest law. Fellows are selected based on their strong interest in public interest and social justice law, as well as academic achievement. Simone Rudolf-Dib and Sarah Taranto, both Class of 2021, were selected for this year's fellowships.

Rudolf-Dib worked at the Habeas Corpus Resource Center. At Gould, Rudolf-Dib has dedicated her time to the Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law, served as a law student clinician for the Post-Conviction Justice Project, and has been active in PILF.

Taranto, also an active member in PILF, was a student in the USC Gould Immigration Clinic, where she defended clients in removal proceedings. She has also done pro bono work for the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and Bet Tzedek. Taranto's fellowship was at the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, where she worked the previous summer. 📌



From top, past PILF President Mirelle Raza, past PILF President Carson Scott, PILF members Sarah Taranto and Simone Rudolf-Dib.



Charles Rivkin and Ann Sarnoff, keynote speakers at two Gould Continuing Legal Education events.



INDUSTRY EXECUTIVES HEADLINE VIRTUAL EVENTS

USC Gould Continuing Legal Education showcased a new online video platform for its annual conferences in response to COVID-19 limitations. Industry leaders and legal professionals from across the nation gathered virtually for presentations, discussions and networking. The 2020 Intellectual Property Institute featured a keynote by Charles Rivkin, chairman and CEO of the Motion Picture Association. Other distinguished panelists at the September event included eight federal judges and leading IP scholars.

The 2020 Institute on Entertainment Law and Business focused on "Hollywood in Flux: Pivoting during the Pandemic" and was highlighted by a keynote from Ann Sarnoff, chair and CEO of WarnerMedia Studios and Networks Group. The October event was presented by USC Gould Continuing Legal Education and the Beverly Hills Bar Association. 📌



MEETING THE CHALLENGE

Every year, USC Gould's clinics and practicums give students the opportunity to build practical legal skills while helping members of the community navigate legal issues. This year, the pandemic posed special challenges for three Gould clinics — the Small Business Clinic, Immigration Clinic and Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic. Here's how they responded to the changes that came their way.

COVID-19 RESOURCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Project provides an opportunity for law students to gain work experience and serve the community

By Leslie Ridgeway

A new task force aimed at assisting local small businesses with changing health and safety guidelines related to COVID-19 gave USC Gould students valuable summer experience that some had missed due to cancelled or delayed internships and externships.

The Small Business Legal Research Task Force was started in early May by Professor Michael Chasalow, director of the USC Gould Small Business Clinic. He amassed 25 students to collaborate on the project, which involved creating and launching a website (sbrr.usc.edu) with relevant information, including forms, on everything from whether a business can take customers' temperature to how to ask a creditor for forbearance on bill payments.



"For many of these issues, there are no applicable legal precedents; we are taking known legal principles and applying them to new rules and regulations," says Chasalow. "It's somewhat challenging because you have to thread this needle of trying to be useful but also providing accurate guidance. And it's a constantly moving target. As soon as we answer a question, new guidance is issued, and we have to update it."



In fact, the day the task force website was launched, California Gov. Gavin Newsom issued new orders closing most businesses in Southern California. For rising 3L Emma Cunningham, who took on co-designing and maintaining the project workflow, it meant going back to the drawing board, but only reinforced her commitment to being part of a solution.

"My sister is a medical physician in Riverside, where she admits and treats patients with COVID, and she was the primary motivation behind it," she says of joining the task force. "She is doing what she can as a doctor, and I wanted to use the experience that Gould has trained me in to contribute."

The site features a Q&A page and sample templates for businesses, including a form for patrons agreeing to abide by a business' terms for mask wearing and social distancing. The site also includes a form for business owners to submit questions that are routed to student volunteers, who research and develop answers that are reviewed by the workflow managers and Chasalow. There's also a resource page with links to a small business guide from the local nonprofit Bet Tzedek, as well as IRS resources, stimulus information and CDC guidance.

"Our goal is to provide an opportunity for our students to benefit the community," Chasalow says. "The current situation left many of our students with additional time this summer, but that additional time provides the brain power that enables the task force to function. We have been able to provide meaningful work experiences while producing a high-quality product that is a resource for local businesses. The students on the task force can be proud of the work they are doing and will be able to point to specific contributions they made to the website and to help businesses during this crisis." Chasalow hopes the project continues as a student-led initiative that provides an ongoing resource for small businesses. 📌

For more information on the USC Small Business Clinic, go to bit.ly/usc-sbc.

Professor Michael Chasalow amassed a group of 25 students, including rising 3L Emma Cunningham, to develop the task force.

FIGHTING FOR THE FAMILY

USC Gould Immigration Clinic helps boy with cancer reunite with his parents

By Christina Schweighofer

A 15-year-old boy hospitalized at Children's Hospital Los Angeles with an advanced brain tumor was reunited with his parents in July, thanks to the persistence of the USC Gould Immigration Clinic and alum Carson Scott (JD 2020).

Alfredo, a U.S. citizen, was first diagnosed with cancer in 2018. When the disease returned this year and he ran out of medical options in his home state of Hidalgo, Mexico, his parents sent him to stay with family in California for further treatment at CHLA while they, reluctantly, stayed behind. Alfredo's parents were not eligible for a visa, and a previous, decade-old deportation order against the father further complicated things.

The clinic, which partners with CHLA to serve seriously ill immigrant children and their families, advocated for humanitarian parole for Alfredo's parents, with Scott's assistance. She prepared applications to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and obtained the necessary signatures from Alfredo's family. She immediately saw the impact of the DHS decision on Alfredo. "His strength increased, and he talked about finding gifts for his parents to welcome them," she said.

Because of the pandemic-related lockdown, Scott communicated with Alfredo and his parents mostly via WhatsApp. Scott is bilingual, and spoke with the family in Spanish.

"It seemed to give him some comfort to put a face to the person who's working with him every day," she says. "He could see that being reunited with his family was a possibility."

The Immigration Clinic submitted the original applications for humanitarian parole for Alfredo's parents to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on April 18. Because of the existing deportation order, it was transferred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), where it languished while Alfredo's condition worsened. When the clinic updated the agency with a new letter from his

oncologist explaining the teenager's tenuous condition, ICE refused to expedite the application. The clinic renewed its humanitarian parole request with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection at San Ysidro and, with the family's permission, alerted the media to the story. With the media attention and advocacy from Sen. Kamala Harris's office, the humanitarian parole applications were approved on July 21, three months after the initial filing. Shortly after, Alfredo's parents were able to reunite with him in the U.S.

Scott, the 2020 Irmas Fellow in Public Interest Law and Legal Ethics, now represents unaccompanied minors for the Immigrant Defenders Law Center in Los Angeles. She says she learned in the clinic "how to make clients' voices understood and advocate relentlessly." Drawn to immigration law because of her family background (Scott is of Mexican heritage on her mother's side), she adds, "What many don't realize is that our immigration system inherently leads to family separation in a lot of ways. Alfredo's case is just one example."

Sadly, Alfredo passed away on Nov. 10 after courageously facing his disease.

Professor Jean Reisz, who co-directs the clinic with Professor Niels Frenzen, says Alfredo's case was particularly challenging but Scott persisted despite several obstacles.

"Reuniting him with his parents for potentially the last time was difficult in unconventional ways given the pandemic, office closures at DHS, social distancing restrictions and Alfredo's poor prognosis," she says. "Carson was responsive to all these factors and really came through for Alfredo, and for the clinic."

To learn more about the USC Gould Immigration Clinic and its work, email immclinic@law.usc.edu. 📧

Below: Alfredo and his parents, who were able to join him as he battled cancer thanks to the efforts of Gould's Immigration Clinic.



OUTSIDE THE COMFORT ZONE

Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic steps up to help startup distributing PPE for health care workers

By Diane Krieger

Students in USC Gould's Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic (IPTLC) usually work for indie filmmakers, game designers and tech startups on issues involving fair use, defamation, trademarks and contracts. But during the COVID-19 pandemic, the clinic advised Get Us PPE, a nonprofit startup based in Massachusetts that distributes donated personal protective equipment (PPE) to hospitals across the country.

With the PPE shortage crisis in April, IPTLC Director Jef Pearlman heard from a scientist friend based at Harvard Medical School that Get Us PPE was looking for free legal advice.

"Everyone wants to help," Pearlman says of the decision to step outside the clinic's comfort zone, "and we are no different."

STUDENTS GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE



Jef Pearlman,
IPTLC director.

Pearlman and his clinic students stepped in about a month after Get Us PPE launched. As of September, the startup had delivered 2.3 million PPE units, filling 16,000 unique requests from 13,000 sources. It also amassed one of the largest non-governmental databases of PPE shortages in the United States.

The nonprofit, founded by a coalition of tech and marketing professionals teamed with emergency room physicians based at Harvard, Brown and Oregon Health & Science universities, consolidated smaller efforts working in parallel across the country.

In the informal role of outside general counsel, Pearlman initially set up an executive board. Soon, he was riding herd over an array of private firms offering their pro bono services on a per-project basis. Pearlman brought the remaining work into IPTLC.



He put second-year law students Tiffany Li and Tyler Fergusson to work on registering a Get Us PPE trademark. IPTLC summer intern and second-year Nicholas Connolly took on more work, drafting nondisclosure and data-sharing agreements, necessary to protect health care workers requesting PPE through the website from retaliation for publicly disclosing shortages in their hospitals. IPTLC also advised the nonprofit on liability risks for its volunteer delivery workers.

"One of the things I wanted students to get out of the experience was really seeing, as a lawyer, what a startup's challenges are and how large organizations operate," Pearlman says.

Pearlman pulled Connolly into Get Us PPE board meetings, partner negotiations and piecemeal pro bono work which included reviewing approximately 150 partner contracts.

"I thought it was fantastic to work with this really incredible up-and-coming nonprofit providing personal protective equipment to medical facilities," says Connolly, a 2L student in the JD-MBA dual-degree track. "It felt good to be able to do something tangible in the face of this giant crisis, while getting lots of hands-on experience in the area I'm most interested in, which is both IP and corporate transactional law."

NONPROFIT PRAISES IPTLC'S ASSISTANCE

Get Us PPE's administration director and executive board member Zach Peery, one of the group's founders, appreciated clinic's help. "We started very much as a grassroots effort. Pretty soon we realized we had to bring in stalwart professionals who knew how to grow an organization. The USC law clinic has been really critical to that growth, and we're very grateful." 🛠️

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Professor Franita Tolson contributes legal analysis to proposed constitutional amendment

By Christina Schweighofer

"It encourages conversation around how we conceive of voting rights," says Professor Franita Tolson of the voting rights amendment she consulted on.

When United States senators Elizabeth Warren and Dick Durbin proposed an amendment this summer to enshrine a right to vote in the U.S. Constitution, one of the legal scholars contributing expertise was USC Gould Vice Dean and Professor Franita Tolson.

Tolson, a noted expert on elections law, consulted staff in the senators' offices on the new amendment's language and explained its impact in a legal analysis. The proposed amendment would require states to justify all voting restrictions.

"If, for example, a state argues they need a voter identification law to address voter fraud, then it wouldn't be enough to just assert that voter fraud exists," Tolson says. "They would have to provide evidence of voter fraud to justify the burden the law places on the right to vote."

The amendment, which broadens the authority of Congress to protect the right to vote, would also ensure that citizens with prior felony convictions can participate in elections. According to Tolson, "There are 6.1 million people nationwide who can't exercise their right to vote because of a prior felony conviction, disproportionately affecting African Americans and Latinos."

The proposed amendment is a response to recent judicial decisions undermining the right to vote, including *Shelby County v. Holder*. In 2013, this



Supreme Court ruling invalidated essential parts of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and thereby made it easier for jurisdictions with a history of engaging in racial discrimination in voting to change their voting laws. Tolson says that states in the South became particularly aggressive after the *Shelby County* decision in passing restrictive measures that disenfranchise lower-income voters and voters of color.

While the Warren-Durbin proposal has little chance of being ratified now — in addition to Congress, three fourths of the states would have to sign on — Tolson sees the proposal as an important step. "It encourages conversation around how we conceive of voting rights and the importance of appointing judges and justices who support the amendment's view of what the right to vote means," she says.

Currently an election law analyst for CNN, Tolson's book *In Congress We Trust? Enforcing Voting Rights from the Founding to the Jim Crow Era* will be published in 2021 by Cambridge University Press. Together with Professor Edward Foley of the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, she also co-hosts a podcast, "Free and Fair With Franita and Foley." 📌

Strengthening the Gould mission

USC Gould receives \$1M scholarship endowment to enhance diversity efforts, support law students

By Leslie Ridgeway

A generous \$1 million endowed gift from the Rosalie and Harold Rae Brown Charitable Foundation will enhance the law school's diversity efforts and provide significant financial support to future law students.


The newly established Rosalie and Harold Rae Brown Scholarship at USC Gould includes the \$1 million scholarship endowment along with an additional \$50,000 gift for current use toward merit scholarships for law student applicants, beginning with the incoming class for fall 2021, with a positive consideration in the selection process given to students who self-identify as African American. The contribution was made by USC alum Harold Brown (BS 1959), who named the scholarship in honor of his parents.

"I have the utmost respect for people who work hard to further their education, and I'm very pleased that the Rosalie and Harold Rae Brown Charitable Foundation can help talented, deserving students achieve their goals," says Brown. "I hope this scholarship makes a difference in the lives of Gould students, who will then go on to make a difference in the lives of so many others during their legal careers."

The goal of the scholarship is to attract and enroll a more diverse student body at USC Gould, with a larger focus on diversifying the legal profession. USC Gould Dean Andrew Guzman has made diversity a signature priority since assuming leadership of the law school in 2015. Dean Guzman undertook a broad assessment of the school's admissions efforts, and as a result, USC Gould has successfully boosted enrollment of JD students from historically underrepresented groups.

"The strength of our law school is rooted in its diversity — of backgrounds, cultures, ideas and perspectives. Yet we recognize that there is much more work to be done on this important front. It's an ongoing process of improvement," says Dean Guzman. "This generous gift helps us in our journey to become a better, more inclusive institution, which in turn helps the legal profession become more diverse and more representative of the communities it serves."

The gift came about after discussions between Brown and Gould alum Ron Mandell (JD 1967), who has served as Brown's legal counsel for more than 50 years and sits on the board of the Rosalie and Harold Rae Brown Charitable Foundation. Mandell was inspired by USC's commitment to advance social justice and positive change.

Brown is a dedicated supporter of USC, having recently donated \$5 million to create the Rosalie and Harold Rae Brown Center for Cancer Drug Discovery at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. 



EXPANDING HORIZONS FOR STUDENTS

\$1 million estate gift from USC Gould School of Law alum provides scholarship support

By Leslie Ridgeway

David and
Susan Howard

A generous \$1 million gift from USC Gould alum and tax law attorney David Howard (JD 1970) and his wife, Susan, has established a new scholarship with positive consideration given to USC Gould School of Law students who self-identify as the first in their families to graduate from college and pursue advanced degrees.

The Susan and David Howard Endowed Scholarship Fund includes an initial pledge of \$100,000 to establish the scholarship endowment, with the remainder to be added through an estate gift. The endowment will provide scholarship funds annually to law students. David Howard, a “Triple Trojan,” earned a bachelor’s degree from the USC Marshall School of Business in 1966 and a Master of Public Administration from the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy in 1970, prior to earning his law degree.

The gift complements the support provided through the USC Gould C. David Molina First-Generation Professionals program, which was established in 2015 to provide mentorship, networking opportunities and informational events for first-generation college students or students from lower-income backgrounds.

“This gift not only demonstrates the strength of the Gould Trojan Family during a critical time in our history, but also reflects a firm belief in the talent of our students, regardless of their background,” says Dean Andrew T. Guzman. “We are deeply thankful to David and Susan Howard for this investment toward furthering the success of every law student.”



Howard, a tax law attorney who retired as a national partner of Deloitte LLP and now operates his own private tax and business law practice in San Jose, Calif., says law school changed his life, and the gift is his way of returning that favor.

“Law school expanded my horizons and the ways I thought about the world. Our hope is to create important opportunities for students to have that same experience,” Howard says. “First-generation students bring so much to the classroom as well as the legal profession — and this gift is a contribution to their journey.”

In addition to his work as a tax attorney, Howard has taught as an adjunct at University of California, Santa Barbara, and in the graduate school of business Master of Science in Taxation program at San Jose State University. 🍷

Change agents

Gould offices embrace disruption and discover new opportunities amid pandemic

By Leslie Ridgeway

It was March 11, 2020, and USC Gould's admissions office was preparing to welcome admitted JD students to their first on-campus event of the year that Friday. Everything was running smoothly, and then the rumblings about the coronavirus became a thunderclap as most USC employees were directed to pack up and work from home indefinitely.



“There were students in the air on their way to campus,” says David Kirschner, associate dean of JD admissions and financial aid. “We were able to turn the admitted students event into a virtual event, literally overnight.”

While many may remember 2020 through the dim lens of the coronavirus, at USC Gould it will also be remembered as a year of change, capability and creative thinking. The law school's Admissions and Financial Aid, Career

Services and Graduate & International Programs offices, not to mention all the Gould departments supporting them, embraced the shakeup of business as usual, discovering silver linings in the process.

SHIFTS IN THE PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPE

Career Services, for example, helped to lead a re-evaluation of a troubling national trend in recruitment, in which firms eager to nab the best and brightest started engaging students earlier and earlier — in their 1L year, sometimes even in summer before school — a practice known as “pre-cruiting.” But with business uncertainties owing to COVID-19, firms were reluctant to commit so early to interviews, opening a door for change, says Betsy Armour, associate dean and dean of career services.

“It relaxed the situation, and gave everyone license to say, ‘Let’s see if we can do recruiting at a later time,’” she says. “January became the target because the move to credit/no credit in spring 2020 meant that students would not have another semester of graded courses until winter 2021. It was the right thing to do for the school and our students. Employers expressed enthusiasm too, since a later recruiting season allows them to forecast their hiring needs more accurately. We made this decision courageously, and most law school peers made similar decisions.”

Another benefit came from moving the on-campus interviewing (OCI) process to a digital platform, a cost-saver for law firms and easy for candidates, interviewers and Career Services to use and monitor. Students give up less class time to travel to interviews, and firms are more encouraged to interview nationally, expanding opportunities for students, Armour says.

“During what we have rebranded as ‘Winter OCI,’ we have contracted with a new company which offers video-enabled interviews that closely mimic the in-person OCI experience,” she says. “There’s a virtual ‘knock-on-the-interview-door’ feature when the next recruit is up, and participants can easily send

“We were able to turn the admitted students event into a virtual event, literally overnight.” —David Kirschner



“It gives firms the same access to students they normally get, without worries about health or travel costs. We are lucky to be in a technologically sophisticated world.” —Betsy Armour

or receive application materials electronically. It’s pretty amazing technology, and it gives firms the same access to students they normally get, without worries about health or travel costs. We are lucky to be in a technologically sophisticated world.”

Career Services tested a similar platform at a fall recruiting program with smaller law firms, as well as

public interest and government agencies, and plans to use Symplicity’s Virtual Career Fair module to host signature networking events such as the Public Interest Career Fair and Meet the Firm Night for students, employers and alumni in November, Armour says. There are also plans to continue to hold job fairs featuring employers in New York; Washington, D.C.; Chicago; and Texas in partnership, virtually, with other law school partners, and to leverage resources from the National Association for Law Placement, she says.

ENGAGING AND EMBRACING A VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

For Anitha Cadambi, associate director of graduate curriculum and instruction and adjunct professor of law, an initial, emergency curriculum plan in the spring transformed into long-term planning as the reality of a fall semester online began to set in. With five years’ experience working in online academic programming and three-and-a-half years of curriculum development, she was certainly qualified for the challenge.

“That was basically my summer — thinking of ways to engage with professors, getting them up to speed and offering our guidance,” she says. “It was a rocky start but that’s the case with any new technology.”

She and her team surveyed more than 200 students and faculty about what worked and what didn’t in the spring, and used the data to develop a series of workshops serving as basic and advanced resources for faculty, many of whom had never taught on Zoom before. Those with experience on Zoom provided valuable perspective for their peers, she says.

“One thing that was new to many faculty was asynchronous teaching — having students do things on their own time like watching a short, interactive video, or responding to a discussion board prompt and using class time to discuss issues related to each of these learning activities,” Cadambi says. “It makes the class more interactive. We also held a workshop on how to create discussions to get student opinions and feedback and use these discussions in class.”

Workshop hosts were all subject matter experts, from IT to pedagogy, and some workshops were hosted by the USC Center for Excellence in Teaching. Cadambi was particularly impressed by a six-week intensive workshop that the center offered, including faculty from across the campus.

“It was interesting to see how other disciplines teach,” she says. “The community exchange was superbly beneficial. I’ve been doing this for a while and felt I learned a lot of new things.”

The team also developed a teaching guide, synthesizing best practices into bite-size, accessible tips and sample language that could be adopted into individual curricula, Cadambi says. They also included knowledge gleaned from a series of roundtable, online discussions hosted by the Association of American Law Schools. Vice Dean for Curriculum Lybby Carroll also reached out to adjunct professors to ensure that they were comfortable with Zoom and had opportunities to meet together and learn from each other, she says.

The online format underscored the value and power of communication, which Cadambi sees as improving as professors and students engage more digitally. She also sees more effort towards outreach before students even arrive for their first year of law school.

“What a way to build connection early and an opportunity for students to expand knowledge and law school preparation,” she says. “A lot of students don’t know what to do when they get here. I like the idea of building community online.”

That was the goal when the JD admissions office focused its efforts on developing regional groups and



“What a way to build connection early and an opportunity for students to expand knowledge and law school preparation.”

—Anitha Cadambi

summer reading groups, many of which extended into the fall. Erin Van Dorn, director of JD admissions, helped to oversee the regional groups, which Kirschner says were designed to help 1Ls get connected with each other in the areas where they live, and returning 2Ls and 3Ls as well, some of whom led the groups, he says. The plan is to eventually include alumni, he says.

Faculty reading groups for 1Ls were something of a hit this summer. Professors Abby Wood and Tom Lyon helped Admissions circulate the idea among faculty, many of whom stepped up to lead reading groups like “Race, Rap and Redemption in Criminal Law” (Professor Jody Armour) and “Money in Politics” (Wood). Students appreciated the opportunity to meet fellow students and professors in a casual setting while becoming comfortable with their experience levels in law school.

Adding a new digital dimension to engagement, Professor Sam Erman developed an idea for noontime “Zoom Pop-Up” sessions, in which faculty schedule up to one-hour discussions about current events within their expertise.

Once the pandemic is over, Kirschner, Armour and Cadambi all see digital learning and engagement finding a home within the Gould School.

“This has, to an extent, reshaped the way law schools will interact with candidates,” Kirschner says. “Nothing can replace the sense you get when you can visit the law school and meet members of community in person, but there will be a place for virtual events to fill in the gaps.”

Cadambi looks to the NBA “bubble” as a sign of the future of engagement, with fans logging in to interact with their favorite basketball stars. The new model could be a hybrid, and it may require more creativity and energy from professors and those in curriculum development, but the dividends could be immeasurable.

“You won’t be constrained to just a classroom. You could reach the world if you needed to,” she says. “That’s why we started online programs: to take the Gould brand of education to the world.”

While the experience of the pandemic has been a shock to the system, Armour, Kirschner and Cadambi say it has highlighted the skills, aptitude and pragmatism of students, faculty and staff at the Gould School.

“In an odd way, this has been a huge disrupter but also a challenge and a learning experience,” Armour says. “At Gould, people have stepped up and made the most of a new reality with a lot of creativity. It speaks volumes of our dean, and our community.”

LEGAL CARE FOR

Gould alumni play role in Keck Medicine of USC program helping health care workers during pandemic

By Julie Riggott

As a hospital social worker, Joey Kwon has educated countless patients about life care planning, but put completing her own living will on the back burner. But a new university-bred program to help frontline workers stay safe and healthy — with an important assist from USC Gould School of Law — empowered her to prioritize the task.

“COVID has really brought to mind the uncertainty of life,” says Kwon, who works at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital. “It made me think about the true priorities in life — family, safety and health — and what safeguards I can put in place to ensure my family and children’s wellbeing.

“When I saw on our HR page that Care for the Caregiver offers legal assistance, I knew it was time to

Hospital of USC, contacted USC Gould Dean Andrew Guzman about finding alumni willing to provide pro bono assistance to frontline caregivers. Robin Maness, associate dean of development, alumni relations and continuing legal education, and Professor Ariela Gross quickly launched the program, which encompasses will and estate planning, advance health care directives, power of attorney, tax and family law.

More than a dozen Gould alumni have volunteered time and resources through Care for the Caregiver, as well as the City of Los Angeles’ LA Represents, a coalition of law firms, bar associations and attorneys providing COVID-19 related legal services by increasing their existing pro bono commitments to legal aid organizations. Gould alumni in diverse industries, on

“We were moved to help these caregivers who are putting themselves at risk of exposure in order to help others who are vulnerable. The caregivers deserve to know that there are others in the community who value their service and are there for them...” — Ana Storey

take advantage of this opportunity. I now feel peace of mind having completed it.”

Instituted in April to support high-risk health care staff, Keck Medicine of USC’s Care for the Caregiver program offers help with everything from housing to mental health services, and includes a legal assistance program started in partnership with Gould.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE CONNECTION TO OFFER LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The legal assistance program was developed after Dr. John Brodhead, chief of medicine at the Keck

their own and through their companies, also donated equipment, including PPE and overflow tents, to Keck hospitals.

“We’ve helped over 90 people at Keck through the legal assistance program,” says Maness. “We are still receiving requests and will continue to do so.”

As part of the legal assistance component, Maness reached out to the USC Gould Continuing Legal Education Trust and Estate Conference Planning Committee, which assisted with planning documents for trusts and wills. Kenneth Wolf, conference chair and

THE CAREGIVER



Frontline workers at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital at an event to thank firefighters and law enforcement for their work during the pandemic.

founding member and of counsel at Freeman, Freeman & Smiley LLP, helped pull the assistance together. Through several Gould connections, the legal assistance program also reached out to local trust and estate attorneys and local family law firms Bet Tzedek and LevittQuinn Family Law Center. Ken Friedman (JD 1998) connected Gould with Diego Cartagena, president and CEO of Bet Tzedek, Maness says. Class of 2021 President Marian Slocum volunteered to manage the requests under Professor Gross' supervision.

LevittQuinn attorneys provided legal advice to Keck caregivers on family law issues and helped them navigate COVID-impacted courts and understand their legal rights and responsibilities. Executive Director Ana Storey, a USC Sol Price School of Public Policy alum, credited Steven Mindel (JD 1985), managing partner of Feinberg, Mindel, Brandt and Klein LLP and emeritus member of LevittQuinn's leadership council, with connecting LevittQuinn with the legal assistance program, which Storey says seemed like a perfect fit.

"We were moved to help these caregivers who are putting themselves at risk of exposure in order to help others who are vulnerable. The caregivers deserve to know that there are others in the community who value their service and are there for them," she says.

PROVIDING PPE, AND MORE

Gould alumni in fields other than law also provided support to their fellow Trojans. Thanks in part to efforts by John Slusher (JD 1994), Nike Inc. got in the game, donating face shields, respirator lenses and footwear to Keck caregivers.

"We were incredibly proud but also humbled by the opportunity to support frontline health care workers, including those at Keck, in meeting the urgent need for personal protective equipment," says Slusher, executive vice president of sports marketing at Nike Inc.

Slusher noted the large-scale collaborative effort required drawing on the expertise of teams across Nike Inc., to "transform our footwear and apparel materials in our own manufacturing facilities into full-face shields and air-purifying respirator lenses — in just a matter of weeks." 📌

WELCOME CLASS OF 2023

USC Gould's newest JD cohort impresses with its diversity, selectivity and range of backgrounds

By USC Law Magazine Staff



The USC Gould School of Law's Class of 2023 has much to distinguish it, not the least being the first class in the school's history to begin the academic year online during a global pandemic. The Class of 2023 is also the most diverse in terms of ethnicity, gender and backgrounds, and is one of the most selective in four decades.

In a Zoom presentation, Associate Dean of JD Admissions and Financial Aid David Kirschner noted that this year's class is 59% women, a record high for the law school. Other notable statistics include: 47% are from a historically under-represented minority group, 14% identify as LGBTQ and 13% are first in their family to earn a college degree.

The incoming class also has the strongest median GPA to date (3.82), as well as a median LSAT of 167, resulting in the strongest combined median LSAT and GPA ever to enter the Gould School. And, it is one of the most selective of all time — with an acceptance rate of 17% after drawing approximately 5,300 applications.

A COHORT OF INNOVATORS AND LEADERS

Also notable are the backgrounds of this year's incoming class, which include a Navy paratrooper who served on an aircraft carrier, a headline performer at Hollywood's exclusive Magic Castle, a co-founder of a campus homeless outreach program, a former Miss Teen USA, and the founder and president of the CURA International nonprofit, a global organization focused on improving education.

The tech sector is well represented, as the Class of 2023's collective resume includes working as head of intellectual property operations for Pinterest, the creator of an iPhone app that helps the user find free food samples and the English translator of the global version of the mobile game Soul Hunters.

Former members of the military further make up the incoming class, including a student who served as a cryptologic Arabic linguist and signals intelligence analyst for the U.S. Army, as well as a mass communications specialist for the U.S. Navy.

THE USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW'S CLASS OF 2023

167
MEDIAN LSAT SCORES

3.82
MEDIAN GPA

Strongest combined median LSAT and GPA ever to enter the Gould School.

59
PERCENT

WOMEN
(record high for the law school)

IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ+

14
PERCENT

5,300 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

13%
FIRST IN THEIR FAMILY TO EARN A COLLEGE DEGREE

ACCEPTANCE RATE OF **17%**

47% FROM A HISTORICALLY UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITY GROUP

WORDS OF INSPIRATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT

In his address, Dean Andrew Guzman spoke about the law school's core values and its role in being "a force toward justice."

"The legal system is inseparable from the social realities around us, and this imposes a clear responsibility for all of us who have chosen to join the legal profession. Lawyers must stand and give voice to our nation's most important values."

Kirschner reminded the incoming class that the first year will be challenging, but that they have the tools within them to persevere.

"While your emotions may change throughout the year, what you conveyed in your personal statement will

not — and you should rely on that to overcome any obstacles you may encounter," he said. "This is why I have spent so much time sharing bits and pieces about many of you, so that all of you realize there is a reason greater than yourselves for pursuing a career in law."

Kirschner also expressed much enthusiasm and hope for the new 1L class as they begin their legal education, despite the unique circumstances presented by the pandemic.

"I am just as excited and full of optimism to welcome you, the Class of 2023, as I am each year," he said. "I really love this day, and while this year may be different, welcoming all of you is the best part of my job." 🍷

USC GOULD AND DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES: A RICH HISTORY

By Alicia Di Rado

Law students today tackle torts and ponder property law at the USC Gould School of Law on the south side of the University Park Campus. But here's a little USC law school history: 100 years ago, the school's students went to class nearly five miles away, in downtown Los Angeles.

USC Gould started as the Los Angeles Law School in 1896, becoming affiliated with USC in 1900. Pictured: USC College of Law at the Tajo Building in 1911.

PHOTO / UNIVERSITY ARCHIVE

From 1911 to 1925, USC's law school was in the Tajo Building at the northwest corner of North Broadway and West First Street. Today, the First Street U.S. Courthouse still stands across the street from the site.

The Tajo Building was erected at the behest of Simona M. Martinez Bradbury, widow of millionaire Lewis Bradbury. Architects George Herbert Wyman and William Lee Woollett designed the structure. Fans of the L.A. architecture scene would recognize Wyman as one of the creators of the landmark Bradbury Building and its famous Victorian atrium.

STUDENTS WHO MADE USC LAW SCHOOL HISTORY

USC's law school settled into the building at a time when the United States had just seen record numbers of





immigrants. Enrollment at the law school reflected the arrival of these new Americans. A 1912 school yearbook shows Japanese, Filipino, Armenian and Russian Jewish students. Reflecting the diversity of the city, the school's second Black student also appears in the book, as do women. Students founded Phi Delta Delta, the nation's first law student sorority, during this era.

Only a few years later, Mabel Walker Willebrandt (LLB 1916, LLM 1917) graduated. She would become one of the nation's most prominent female attorneys from the 1920s through the 1940s. Under President Warren G. Harding, Willebrandt served as assistant attorney general.

Mirroring the changing faces of Los Angeles, the school also counted You Chung Hong (LLB 1924,

LLM 1925) as an alumnus. Hong's father was a Chinese immigrant who had worked on the railroads. After leaving USC, Hong became the first Chinese American admitted upon examination to practice law in California. He specialized in immigration law and became a leading civil rights attorney over the next four decades.

By 1925, USC leaders built a permanent law school on the University Park Campus and students moved south. Thirteen years later, the Tajo Building was demolished. But the area still hosts its share of legal scholars: The L.A. Law Library now stands where so many aspiring Trojan attorneys once studied. 📌

This story originally appeared in USC Trojan Family Magazine.

MAN *of the* MOMENT

Professor Jody Armour rises to role of giving context to national protests for criminal justice reform and end to racism

By Leslie Ridgeway

To USC Gould School of Law Professor Jody Armour, COVID-19's global threat surpassed even the election in news prominence. Then George Floyd was killed by a police officer in Minneapolis on May 25, the news cycle flipped and Armour's phone hasn't stopped ringing.

"At the time the marches started, up to 100,000 lives had been lost [to COVID], people were sheltering in place, and I couldn't imagine anything taking that story out of the headlines other than a meteor heading toward Earth," says Armour. "George Floyd dominated the headlines for five to seven weeks. It gives you a sense of the impact (of the killing) on the collective American psyche."

Armour, Roy P. Crocker Professor of Law and a well-known scholar and advocate of criminal justice reform, in four months has given more than 80 interviews to local, national and international media outlets seeking context on killings by police of Floyd and other Black men and women, the Black Lives Matter movement, and nationwide protests. When hundreds of protestors marched across Los Angeles neighborhoods on May 29, Armour was live on the phone with the local CBS affiliate, discussing the broken policies leading to the unrest and criminal justice issues he has highlighted since the mid-1990s.

"It's less surprising if you think about these problems as longstanding and festering, problems I've been writing about in a foundational way," he says. "It was just a matter of time before the circumstances caught up or returned to these issues."

Armour published his second book, *N*gga Theory: Race, Language, Unequal Justice and the Law* in August, continuing

or building on themes of his first book, *Negrophobia and Reasonable Racism: The Hidden Costs of Being Black in America* (1997). That book covered racial profiling, police brutality and mass incarceration, which are all at the forefront today.

Reporters often ask Armour about the widespread outrage following the Floyd killing. As he sees it, it leads with the killing of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia in February, followed closely by the Floyd incident and the Amy Cooper/Christian Cooper incident in New York City's Central Park on the same day. Deep biases and flaws in societal attitudes and policies claiming to address the roots of racism and violence became too stark to be ignored. The Black Lives Matter movement was prepared to amplify the outrage thanks to an infrastructure created during protests in 2013-2015, he says.

"George Floyd, as the last element that sparked the unrest, was so powerful in and of itself," he says. "The horror of it, the indifference of the officers, and this [police] department had undergone all the training for de-escalation and implicit bias that we told ourselves would get to the bottom of these issues. It was too much for many Americans to bear without a strong visceral reaction that got them into the street."

Along with numerous news shows, podcasts and panel discussions organized by academics and activists,





Professor Jody Armour addresses marchers at the Jubilee March for Equality in Downtown Los Angeles.

Armour was asked to participate in the Jubilee March for Equality in Downtown Los Angeles, recognizing Juneteenth, as well as USC's first Juneteenth celebration, bringing together faculty, students and administration in a heartbreaking and heartfelt discussion of the holiday and reckoning of systemic racism.

Today, Armour is in a unique position to observe and comment in real time as the protests morphed into calls for law enforcement policy reform and opportunities for state legislatures to respond. The results are mixed and at times, disturbing.

"We wag our fingers piously at the protestors and tell them to cast a ballot – that's more productive and reasonable to get what you want in the way of real reform," he says. "Then you look at the California Legislature and a Democratic governor who failed to enact police reforms that weren't even that radical. They said they took the protests seriously and at the end of the day, if the legislature can't deliver, what does that say about the efficacy of the ballot?"

Armour still believes voting matters, especially at a local level, for offices of district attorney, county supervisor and sheriff. He continues to champion the "progressive prosecutor" movement and serves on the board of directors of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership, an international nonprofit that comprises prosecutors, judges, scholars, and retired and active law enforcement officials advocating for drug policy and criminal justice reform.

The activities and commitments have been, at times, overwhelming. Repeat viewings and discussions of the Floyd video and others killed by police led Armour to a dark place, he says. He addressed it by rising at 3:30 a.m. for hour-long runs before early interviews and recognizing he needed help.

"Your psyche is like your body — after a while, something will give out," he says. "I've been through things before, and I like to think I can eat nails for breakfast. It is easy to not notice [exhaustion]. I think of the younger folks who haven't developed these coping mechanisms." 🍷

Bringing hope to domestic violence victims

Professor Lisa Klerman spearheads initiative to address unique COVID-related issue

By Diane Krieger

Professor Lisa Klerman (center) in Spain with friends (from left) Cathi Lundy, Mary Ann Walker, Febyolla Shen and Susan Maniscalco (JD 1996).

A Zoom call between a squad of social-distancing hiker friends about the implications of the pandemic led a USC Gould clinical professor to spearhead the development of a public service announcement targeting domestic violence, and the impetus to create more domestic violence-related internship opportunities for Gould students.

As Lisa Klerman, clinical professor of law and director of the USC Gould Mediation Clinic, tells it, the conversation steered towards people victimized by the pandemic. News reports indicated that domestic abuse was spiking worldwide but especially in Los Angeles, where domestic violence reports had dropped precipitously — not because less abuse was happening but because lockdown created a dangerous condition.

“I mentioned that there’s a real issue with women who are victims of domestic violence being trapped in their homes,” she says. “Then it turned into: ‘Well, why don’t we actually do something?’”

The result was a public service announcement that aired on television over the summer.

To determine how to proceed, Klerman researched and contacted Southland shelters and DV agencies to understand how they operate, and tapped contacts in the city and county for information on public services and how victims access them. She discovered that most DV victims are Spanish speakers.

With the expertise of other group members, including alum Susan Maniscalco (JD 1996), who recruited her daughter as project intern, the 30-second spot came together, costing about \$3,000 to produce. The Spanish-language PSA



aired on Estrella Media and Univision between July 13 and Aug. 21. While Klerman has no way to quantify its impact, she is confident the PSA made a difference — and appreciates the opportunity to contribute in an area of interest.

“I do have a passion for addressing DV,” she says. In a previous role at Morrison & Foerster LLP, she did pro bono representation of Break the Cycle, a national nonprofit that seeks to prevent and reverse unhealthy relationships among young people.

Newly energized by the PSA experience, Klerman huddled with Rachel Kronick Rothbart, Gould’s director of career services, to identify new DV-related volunteer and internship opportunities for students. She and Rothbart, along with USC Gould Professor Hannah Garry, also got involved with LA Represents, an emergency initiative to help Angelenos facing legal hardships due to COVID-19. USC has since partnered with the city-run coalition, which prioritizes five areas of critical need including domestic violence. 📌

A victory in criminal justice reform

Professor Clare Pastore and Access to Justice Practicum play key role in California lawsuit ruling

By Leslie Ridgeway

Professor Clare Pastore was co-counsel on the lawsuit forcing the DMV to stop suspending licenses of drivers who fail to appear in court. Andrés Cantero was one of the Gould students who worked on the the lawsuit filing.

When the California Court of Appeal ruled in June that the state Department of Motor Vehicles had been improperly suspending licenses of drivers who fail to appear in court, the USC Gould School of Law's Access to Justice Practicum was among California legal aid and civic rights groups celebrating a victory in criminal justice reform.

Professor Clare Pastore, who teaches the practicum, was co-counsel on *Hernandez v. DMV* along with attorneys from the Western Center on Law & Poverty, Bay Area Legal Aid and the ACLU of Northern California. For five years, more than a dozen Gould students contributed their time to *Hernandez* and similar cases, doing data collection, research, observation in traffic court and interviewing potential plaintiffs.

"It's been really good for the students to learn what it's like to be a small part of a big team working on systemic reform projects that go on for years, with talented advocates from around the state and advocacy in many fora," Pastore says.

The *Hernandez* decision hinges on the DMV's practice of suspending licenses for a "willful" failure to appear in court. Despite the limitation in the law regarding "willful" failures, the DMV suspended licenses of tens of thousands of drivers who missed the date due to factors beyond their control, such as the notice being mailed to the wrong address, or transportation or work issues, Pastore says. Losing a driver's license often snowballs into loss of employment, child care, education and housing.

Access to Justice Practicum alum Sierra Villaran (JD 2015), a deputy public defender in the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, conducted research, wrote

briefs, went to traffic court, and sought out possible plaintiffs whose cases helped demonstrate the burden of a suspended driver's license.

"You don't get many opportunities [in law school] to sit down with real people and ask how [the case] affects them on a daily basis," she says.



Andrés Cantero (JD 2016) worked on drafts accompanying the initial filing of the suit, as well as data collection. As an associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in corporate real estate, the lessons he learned from *Hernandez* instilled a commitment to pro bono work and community advocacy for marginalized populations.

"A structure is in place that people may not connect with the components that perpetuate racial inequality," he says. "This [traffic court] system disparately impacted people of color, and it was nice to try to affect that structure and make a difference in my community." 📌

IN MEMORIAM:

Professor Edward D. Kleinbard

Preeminent tax scholar made mark in private, public and academic arenas

By Greg Hardesty

Professor Ed Kleinbard initially wanted to be a history professor, and after more than 30 years working in a law firm and in the public sector, he realized his academic goals as a law professor.

In early March, on the day before he entered the hospital for what turned out to be his final surgery in a long and brave battle with cancer, Edward D. Kleinbard, Robert C. Packard Chair in Law at USC Gould School of Law, did what friends and loved ones called “quintessential Ed.”

He sent his publisher the final manuscript of his second book, *What's Luck Got to Do with It?: How Smarter Government Can Rescue the American Dream* (due early 2021 from Oxford University Press), a follow-up to his 2015 book, *We are Better Than This: How Government Should Spend Our Money*.



Kleinbard's death on June 28, at 68, made national news and sparked tributes from his colleagues at USC Gould.

One of the nation's preeminent tax scholars — whose unusual career arc took him from a renowned New York law firm to Capitol Hill to USC — Kleinbard never dabbled. He pursued anything he took up with passionate intensity.

Kleinbard used his legal brilliance to advocate for fiscal policy (government tax and spending) supportive of a more equitable society. He was a remarkably prolific writer of essays, scholarly articles and op-eds, as well as a go-to expert commentator on topics as diverse as tax rules that allow multinational corporations to shelter what he called "stateless income" to the intersecting economic and philosophical arguments for increased public social spending.

"Ed was appalled by our country's failure to address inequities, which he saw as not only unjust but also as a route to our collective doom," says one of his closest USC colleagues, Alexander Capron, the Scott H. Bice Chair in Healthcare Law, Policy and Ethics.

"Ed thought of legal scholarship as applied moral philosophy," notes USC Gould School of Law Dean Andrew Guzman, the Carl Mason Franklin Chair in Law and professor of law and political science, in a statement. "He understood that basic questions of tax are basic questions of justice and collective commitment."

Kleinbard, who grew up in Rye, N.Y., spent nearly 30 years at the Wall Street law firm Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, whose blue-chip clients benefitted from the intricacies of tax laws. While in private practice, he published a series of seminal articles on the taxation of financial products that tax professionals still rely on.

Ultimately, he felt the need for new challenges. As Kleinbard would frequently admonish people, "We're always allowed to get smarter."

In 2007, he moved into government service, as chief of staff at the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation, which provides nonpartisan advice to lawmakers on tax legislation. Then, in 2009, he returned to his original destination, academia,

having planned in college to become a history professor. His father, a successful corporate litigator, recommended the more practical pursuit of law.

Kleinbard is survived by his wife, Norma Cirincione, son, Martin, daughter-in-law, Andrea; granddaughter, Vivian; brother David and sister-in-law Anna; sister and brother-in-law Kathy and Kris Heinzelman; and his companion in his later years, Suzanne Greenberg.

"Ed thought of legal scholarship as applied moral philosophy... he understood that basic questions of tax are basic questions of justice and collective commitment."

—Dean Andrew Guzman

Gregory Keating, the Maurice Jones, Jr., Class of 1925 Professor of Law and Philosophy at USC Gould, found a kindred spirit in Kleinbard when it came to road bicycling. They went on many trips together. Keating enjoyed relaxing over lunch after the accomplishment of a long ride, but Kleinbard often became impatient, getting to his feet and saying "No, no more happiness!"

"At first," Keating says, "I hated that line. Then I realized that it made me appreciate the moments even more. Ed enjoyed those moments every bit as much as I did but he knew you couldn't cling to them. If you try, they slip through your fingers. That kind of happiness is fleeting."

In addition to cycling, Kleinbard loved landscape photography. He was a former fly-fishing enthusiast, and he had a dazzling private collection of more than 100 bottles of vintage wine.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the date of a memorial service has yet to be set. 🚧



FIGHTING FOR “THE REAL HEROES”

Lecturer in law Mark Haddad plays key role in access to literacy case for schoolchildren in Detroit

By Leslie Ridgeway

Lecturer in Law Mark Haddad says the case of Gary B., et. al. v. Whitmer, et. al., demonstrates the impact of law on real people.

Mark Haddad, USC Gould lecturer in law, was a key member of the legal team that negotiated a settlement agreement in a case seen as a significant victory in a years-long effort to provide equal education opportunities for Michigan students.

Gary B., et. al. v. Whitmer, et. al., filed in 2016 and signed in mid-May, demanded the constitutional right of access to literacy for students in Detroit and throughout Michigan. Haddad, formerly a partner at Sidley Austin LLP and a board member on the Los Angeles public interest firm Public Counsel, was involved with the lawsuit from its initial filing. He used the case as an example in the Law and Society course he has taught for several years at USC Gould.

When the case was filed, the state of Michigan had returned control of the Detroit school system to local government, but the plaintiffs sued the state because it had aggravated already abysmal conditions during its 15 years of control, Haddad says.

“Even though the state had declared emergency conditions, they didn’t respond. They let the school district get worse,” he says. “They didn’t fix buildings, air conditioning, roofs, they didn’t build enough classrooms to house all the students, and they ended up with crowded, dilapidated classrooms, with kids sitting on milk crates and not enough teachers to teach the kids.”

For Haddad, the case demonstrates the impact of law on real people — in this instance, students, parents and guardians whom he called “the real heroes of the case” for standing up for what they believe is right.



“What truly distinguishes a society governed by the rule of law from societies governed by force is that someone can step forward and call on the legal system to stop someone otherwise more powerful from doing something that is against the law. When you start to look at it that way, you see just how moving these individual cases are,” he says.

Haddad has taught Law and Society as a lecturer at USC Gould since 2017, when he retired from Sidley Austin. He has since added a new course, Fundamentals of the U.S. Legal System, for undergraduates who want to declare a minor in legal studies. Guiding younger lawyers has always been part of his law practice, he says. 📌

Masking the superheroes

Dario Avila (LLM 2017) spearheads campaign to deliver 3D-printed face shields to health care workers in Quito, Ecuador

By Yulia Nakagome

Dario Avila helped create a company dedicated to making face shields for health care workers and prosthetics, all via 3-D printer.

“Every superhero has to wear a mask.”

That’s the motto of a campaign created by Dario Avila (LLM 2017) and his friend Alberto Larrea who runs Jubilous 3D, a 3D-printing project in Quito, Ecuador, that was, until recently, building low-cost prosthetics. When the coronavirus pandemic hit Ecuador hard, Larrea shifted the project’s mission to creating and delivering face shields for health care workers at no cost. Avila, a high school friend, stepped in to help solicit donations and promote the effort.

The effort has become a new company, MONSTERHEALTH, assuming the PPE work and resuming its prosthetics output, as well as developing sanitary products for use in homes and physicians’ offices. Avila is the president, monitoring the company’s administrative and commercial activity, with Larrea serving as CEO and heading up research.

“Our main motivation comes from the lack of personal protection products in Ecuador for medical staff, doctors, nurses and support staff, who are our superheroes in this sanitary conflict,” says Avila, a managing partner at Alpe-Law in Quito. “My father, Dr. Alberto Avila, a renowned cardiologist, passed away last year, and he taught me the importance of helping others every time, under any situation. His legacy, his love for his patients’ health, is my biggest personal motivation.”

After the shields were designed and quality assurance testing completed, Avila got to work spreading the word about the project and encouraging donations, resulting in a donation of nine more 3D printers, and helped create a delivery network. Jubilous 3D delivered more than 6,000 face shields to hospitals in Quito, the Galápagos and Guayaquil, Avila says.

Face shields for health workers in Ecuador typically cost \$5 to \$70, depending on material and quality, Avila says.

“[Our shields] are lighter, more germ-resistant due to low porosity and they comply with medical protection requirements,” Avila says. “We have made them so that they can be disinfected, reused and safely discarded. Our material is 100% biodegradable and compostable which keeps in line with protecting the environment.”

Avila’s promotion strategy includes public presentations, TV, newspaper and radio interviews and social media posts.

Avila says the gratitude from health care workers inspires him.

“The most rewarding part of this experience is to see the hope reflected in the eyes of our doctors and medical staff. They don’t have to say anything because their gaze says more than any kind of word,” Avila says. 📌



Social (media) justice

Shannon Raj Singh (JD 2011) aims to expand her impact as human rights counsel at Twitter

By Julie Riggott

Shannon Raj Singh's background in human rights law positions her to have a major impact on Twitter's policies.

Shannon Raj Singh's (JD 2011) work in international human rights has led her everywhere from Rwanda to The Hague to Lebanon, and now, back to America and a position as Twitter's human rights counsel.



For many people around the world, Raj Singh points out, Twitter is one of the only avenues for expressing dissent.

"In that regard, social media affords incredible opportunities to advance human rights," she says.

"These companies have immense power to shape and empower discourse around the world, and they're seeing the positive way that their platforms can influence the course of events, such as during the Arab Spring and the #MeToo movements, as well as the dangers that can arise, through misinformation, disinformation and hate speech.

"Many tech companies have been roiled over the past few years by the devastating news about the role that technology — and particularly social media — has played in fueling atrocity crimes around the world, perhaps most notably in Myanmar," she says.

Policies that social media companies adopt on dehumanizing speech, misinformation and incitement to violence have immediate ramifications

not only for a particular country or region, but also worldwide, she adds. "Few, if any, bodies or organizations can claim their policies have as expansive a reach, so I consider advising on these issues to be both a privilege and an enormous responsibility.

"This is the opportunity of a lifetime, and I hope to do it justice," she says.

Raj Singh's role grew from her work in the International Human Rights Clinic; she worked with Professor Hannah Garry's first team on the genocide trials at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and was invited to be a judicial intern after graduation. Most recently, she was based in The Hague as a legal officer for the judges of the Appeals Chamber at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, advising on the world's first terrorism trial before an international court. And as a visiting fellow of practice with Oxford's Programme on International Peace and Security, she worked to articulate the due diligence obligations of states from the moment they receive warnings of mass atrocities.

Raj Singh says her USC Gould experience provided the foundation to launch a career in human rights law.

"Due to Professor Garry's remarkable reputation in the field and her close supervision of teams of law students, all of us in the program were offered internships at the Tribunal following graduation," she says. "It was a dream job for a new lawyer wanting to enter this field."

Garry sees the Twitter position as an important connection for the social media company to human rights issues.

"With her background experience and expertise, Shannon could have a hugely important impact as Twitter's human rights counsel by providing a critical human rights perspective in one of the world's largest tech companies," Garry says. ✍️

A BROADER PERSPECTIVE

Justice Richard T. Fields gains important new skills from Gould's Master of Laws in Alternative Dispute Resolution

By Sarah Hazan

Justice Richard T. Fields is one of the first sitting judges to enroll in USC Gould's Master of Laws in Alternative Dispute Resolution program.

In 1991, the backlog of cases under appeal in Riverside, Calif., posed a crisis for the court system. With inadequate resources to continue prosecuting appeals, and a desire to resolve cases quickly, mediation was introduced as a compelling solution.

Justice Richard T. Fields of the Riverside County Superior Court, who presided for 26 years in the Riverside County courts prior to his appointment and subsequent confirmation to the Court of Appeal in 2017, recently joined the appellate court's mediation program to help it develop and grow as a form of alternative dispute resolution in the unique appellate court setting.

"We hear criminal, juvenile, family law, wrongful death and partnership dissolution cases and more," says Fields about the broad range of cases being mediated.

By resolving a case, rather than continuing through the court appeals process, "you're going to leave knowing what you agreed to," he says. "People leave with a certain peace of mind when they decide the resolution instead of the court deciding for you."

A NEW SKILLSET — AND PERSPECTIVE

Despite nearly 30 years on the bench, Fields says he knew he needed additional skills in dispute resolution to successfully participate in the mediation program. He became one of the first sitting judges to enroll in USC Gould's Master of Laws in Alternative Dispute Resolution (LLM in ADR) degree. He balanced hearing cases all day in Riverside with traveling to USC's Los Angeles campus for night classes, earning a degree he calls essential to a successful leadership role in the court's mediation program.

"As a judge, you have certain skills that you apply in the courts and skills you've learned over the years in order to resolve cases. So much of what we do in the



court system is because it's the way it's always been done," says Fields. "But this time, I knew there were skills and techniques to learn first."

ENSURING EFFECTIVE OUTCOMES

One of the first of its kind, the Division 2 of the 4th Appellate District's mediation program now consists of 100% volunteer lawyers — 15 participating at a time — and has resolved approximately 1,500 cases since its inception. With roughly six mediations in the settlement rooms of the appellate court resolving each month, the court's program is working. Not only are more cases closed, but more of the people involved feel heard and seen by the court system, agreeing to a fair and just resolution, even though one party had won a prior verdict.

Fields says he was surprised by how his LLM in ADR at USC Gould impacted his work. "Typically, the way[s] judges handle cases are strictly evaluative. Now, I think that I look at a case with a broader perspective." 📌

A century of learning and law

Ruth Lavine (LLB 1943) celebrates 100 years as lawyer, champion of women in law, and supporter of law students

By Matthew Kredell

Gould alum Ruth Lavine spoke about her experience as a woman in law during a virtual celebration in honor of her 100th birthday

With the approach of the 100th birthday of Ruth Lavine (LLB 1943), family and USC Gould were eager to celebrate, but the pandemic intervened.

For Lavine's part, she was happy with the small, impromptu birthday celebration from her daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren, who waved signs and balloons across the street from her condo in west Los Angeles and sang as she watched from her patio. They also made a tribute video. A planned luncheon at Gould was postponed and reorganized as a virtual celebration of Lavine and other law school women spanning the century.

"When I did make it to 100, people make a lot of fuss about it," Lavine says. "So I feel very important because people seem to think it's important."

COMING TO AMERICA

Lavine was born Ruth Jacobsohn in Hamburg, Germany, on April 21, 1920. As a teenager, she had been accepted by Oxford University, but with Europe on the brink of war, her father put the family on a ship full of British scientists and sailed to New York, arriving in October 1938. Five years prior, her father had moved the family from Germany to England after Adolf Hitler became chancellor.

The family crossed America by train to Los Angeles to connect with family friends. With her parents' encouragement, she enrolled at USC, choosing law when nursing, teaching and medicine didn't appeal. Lavine was one of five women in her class of 23 at USC Law School. With many men being drafted into World War II, it was considered a large class for women.

Being German and Jewish during WWII posed challenges. She was surprised and disappointed when turned away from a law sorority for being Jewish — the very issue that caused her family to leave Germany.

Lavine also needed special permission to attend classes at USC due to an 8 p.m. curfew and restriction to a five-mile radius from home levied on German American and Italian-born people not yet U.S. citizens. It also affected her romantic life. After meeting her husband Richard Lavine (LLB 1942) in the law library, the courtship consisted of Richard visiting her at home and reading her Winston Churchill speeches.

"I was a cheap date," she jokes.

They married in 1944. She worked as a law clerk before taking a decade off to raise a family, returning to work in the late 1950s when a school connection, Robert Thompson (LLB 1942), later appointed an associate justice of the California Court of Appeal and a professor at USC Gould, recruited her to his law firm in L.A.

"I was often the only woman in the room but for some reason it wasn't a problem," Lavine says. "I didn't have a problem with it and I guess they didn't either."

A LEADER IN PROMOTING WOMEN IN LAW

Lavine supported women in law, becoming president of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles in the late 1950s. She was the only woman on the Los Angeles County Bar Association Board at the time, and later served as the first woman president of the Los Angeles County Bar Foundation.

She became a partner at Fain, Lavine, Kaufman and Young with her husband and Harry Fain (LLB 1946),



who ran a prominent family law practice. She finished her career in 1994 in private practice doing probate and estate planning. Many clients were fellow German immigrants whom she enjoyed helping understand U.S. laws.

As a youngster, Lavine's daughter Cathy Unger didn't like her mother being the only mother who worked — something she later came to appreciate.

"As I got older, I was always very proud of what my mother did and it's only grown through the years," she says. "She's been a wonderful role model as an attorney and a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She both had a career and a good home life."

Richard, who went on to be a Los Angeles Superior Court judge, passed away in 1994. Before his death, he and Lavine created the Richard & Ruth Lavine Family Foundation, which in time provided funds for scholarships at USC Gould, with Lavine taking an active role in the lives of scholarship recipients.

Jonathan Kwortek (JD 2020), recipient of the Lavine Scholarship in 2017, was, like Lavine, born in

Germany. Kwortek's father was stationed there in the Army around the fall of the Berlin Wall.

As Kwortek neared graduation, she invited him to her home and when he graduated, she called to congratulate him and ask about his bar studies.

"It's nice to see somebody very involved in the scholarships they give out and wanting to stay in touch," Kwortek says. "My first year, at the scholarship luncheon, they had her speak as the guest of honor along with the dean highlighting her career and involvement with USC. She asked for my address and sent me a hand-written letter. I don't know when was the last time I received one of those. It feels more personal than our general means of communication these days."

Although she hasn't practiced law in 25 years, Lavine attends continuing legal education courses to maintain her status with the State Bar of California. Today, Lavine remains independent, reading the newspaper and her mail daily, and until the coronavirus shutdown, attending theater productions and concerts at the Hollywood Bowl. 🎵

TRADING GOLF

After military service and long career in health care law,
Judge Charles F. Forbes skips retirement for new career

By Matthew Kredell

Judge Charles F. Forbes (JD 1956) was born at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles on Oct. 28, 1929, one day before the stock market crash that signaled the beginning of the Great Depression.

*Judge Charles F. Forbes
celebrating his 90th
birthday in 2019 in true
Trojan fashion.*

“My father used to say that when word got out that I was born, the market crashed out of fear of what had descended upon the Earth,” Forbes says with a laugh.

What followed instead were 90 years and a remarkable life that has included serving in the Korean War and being awarded the Purple Heart (he still has shrapnel in his head), 40 years providing legal representation to hospital and health care providers, coordinating major cases brought before the California Supreme Court, California Court of Appeal, U.S. Court of Appeals and Federal District Courts; and in retirement, becoming a magistrate judge in Georgia.

His interest in law resulted from a war injury. After graduating from USC in 1951 with a business degree, he was drafted into the Korean War and as an officer with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, sustained a shrapnel head wound from a mortar explosion. Surgery was deemed too dangerous, so he was sent home.

Back on American soil, he found inspiration at a Marine Corps school where former Marines who had become lawyers taught a course about the revised Uniform Code of Military Justice. The day after his release from active duty in 1953, he enrolled at USC Law School, graduating with his JD two-and-a-half years later and admitted to the State Bar of California on June 12, 1956.

Forbes specialized in health care law. As a partner at Los Angeles-based Musick, Peeler



FOR THE BENCH

& Garrett LLP, he represented clients including the California Hospital Association and a number of hospitals in the state.

Highlights over his 40-year career include drafting several bills for the 1984 Summer Olympics Organizing Committee. Forbes also represented USC in negotiations with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in the late 1960s, convincing the Board to withdraw its proposal to terminate malpractice insurance for interns and residents of the USC School of Medicine. Forbes also served as the first president

Yvonne Braithwaite Burke; Marcus Kaufman, a California Supreme Court justice; Orville Armstrong, a justice of a California Court of Appeal; John Argue, a prominent attorney who was key to bringing the 1984 Olympics to Los Angeles; and Chuck Wiggins, a U.S. House of Representative and judge for the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. He realized he had a chance, even at an older age, to make a similar impact.

“Any time we had a reunion or social gathering, I always referred to them as ‘judge’ and ‘your honor’ out of respect,” Forbes says. “I thought if I could be a magistrate judge, the

“He’s just an amazing storyteller — the best I’ve ever met ... I can only imagine what it was like in the courtroom if you were on a jury.” —Michael Burby

and was a member of the board of directors for the California Society of Healthcare Attorneys.

“When I first started out, health care law wasn’t so great but as time went on it became a burgeoning area,” Forbes says. “For young people coming out of law school now, health care law is a career they may well be interested in. It’s a career that provides a lot of potential to do good for large groups of people.”

Forbes retired in 1997 and moved with his wife of 40 years, Margie, to Reynolds Lake Oconee near Greensboro, Ga., across the country from daughters Cathleen Smith and Lisa Galloway, teachers who raised their families in Southern California. He went for the golf courses, but he soon lost interest in golf and signed up to serve on the board of a local hospital. There, he met Judge LaVerne Ogletree, the probate judge and chief magistrate judge for Greene County. He was intrigued when she asked if he might want to become a magistrate judge.

Forbes’ USC law classmates include former California State Assemblywoman, U.S. Congresswoman and Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors member

lowest court on the judiciary scale, I could be a judge too. It does wonders for my ego when people call me a judge. I admit it.”

After taking two courses at the University of Georgia to qualify since he had not been admitted to practice in Georgia, he began serving in 2008. He’s on call every other week to determine the issuance of arrest and search warrants. He confers with law enforcement officers and determines if there is probable cause for the warrant.

Moving to Georgia also led to a nostalgic acquaintance with the grandson of one of his teachers. Michael Burby (BA 1990), who had a vacation home near Forbes, met Forbes at a dinner party and discovered that Forbes was a student of his grandfather, William, USC Gould’s second full-time faculty member who taught there for 38 years. A friendship developed, with Burby and his wife Nori helping throw Forbes a 90th birthday party last year, complete with a USC Trojan cake.

“He’s just an amazing storyteller — the best I’ve ever met,” Burby said. “I can only imagine what it was like in the courtroom if you were on a jury.” 🍷

JOHN IINO BRINGS HIS TALENTS TO LEAD THE USC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS

By Eric Lindberg

John Iino (JD 1987) learned about racial injustice at an early age. He grew up hearing stories from his Japanese American elders about forced relocation and incarceration during World War II.

Their experiences changed how he thought about inclusion and bridging gaps between colleagues and friends from different backgrounds. So when the USC Gould School of Law alum was offered a leadership role focused on diversity and inclusion in 2016, it felt like a natural fit.

“It was a culmination of all the things I had experienced and learned,” he says. “Now more than ever, I recognize the importance of driving change and the need to look at ourselves and understand ourselves better.”

Iino became chief diversity officer at global law firm Reed Smith LLP, where he has held many leadership roles since joining as partner in 2001. Under his guidance, the firm has increased gender and racial diversity in its ranks. He plans to emphasize similar priorities in 2020-21 as the 97th president of the USC Alumni Association Board of Governors.

A COMMITMENT TO CHANGING CULTURE

Measuring success in diversity and inclusion is a tricky question. At Reed Smith, Iino can point to statistics — like a 15% increase in female lawyers and 20% increase in lawyers of color since 2016 — or the download numbers of his podcast, “Inclusivity Included: Powerful Personal Stories.” Coworker and industry feedback is his proudest sign of progress.

“Changing the culture and having our people feel welcomed and comfortable and them literally bragging to people in other firms or to friends and family about



enjoying where they work, that’s the most important thing for me,” he says. “We still have a long way to go, but it’s being noticed.”

He sees opportunities for similar advances at USC. “We have a keen focus on contributing as alumni to this conversation around diversity and inclusion,” Iino says. “How can we support our alumni, our students and the university in this mission?”

A FOCUS ON BUILDING NETWORKS

One way is to build on USC’s professional network, which Iino says can help Trojans of all backgrounds launch their careers. In his previous role as chair of the USC Gould Board of Councilors, he saw the Trojan Family’s strength when the board launched efforts supporting first-generation college students and job-seeking graduates. He is excited about similar work underway at the USC Alumni Association through the Trojans to Trojans initiative, which includes the Trojan Network mentoring platform and Trojans Hiring Trojans, a USC Career Center program. 📌

This story was originally published by USC Trojan Family Magazine.

KAREN WONG NAMED CHAIR OF GOULD BOARD OF COUNCILORS

By USC Law Magazine Staff

Karen Wong (JD 1986), a pioneer in the renewable energy field, was named chair of the USC Gould School of Law's Board of Councilors in July, succeeding John Iino, who continues to serve as a member of the board.

Wong is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Milbank LLP. She joined the law firm as an associate in 1990, becoming partner in 1996. As a member of Milbank's preeminent Global Project, Energy and Infrastructure Finance group, Wong helped establish and build Milbank's renewable energy and development practices. Wong plans to retire from Milbank in 2021.

"The Gould School of Law is delighted that Karen has agreed to chair the Board of Councilors," says Dean Andrew Guzman. "Her leadership experience and dedication to USC and Gould will be enormously valuable in helping us shape the law school's bright future."

Wong previously served as vice chair of the Gould Board of Councilors. She is also a guest lecturer at Gould.

In more than three decades of practice, Wong has led a number of innovative transactions globally, including one of the largest wind projects in North America, the first U.S. offshore wind project, the first wholly foreign-owned power project in China, the first independent power project in Thailand and the first thermal project in Lao PDR, a collective value surpassing \$30 billion.

A double Trojan, earning a BS in business administration from the Marshall School in 1982 in addition to her JD from Gould, Wong has an extensive record of engagement and leadership at the law school and at USC.

Wong currently sits on the USC Associates Board of Directors. She has also served on USC's Board of Governors, and has held numerous leadership roles in the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association, including president. Wong was a member of the host

committee for the USC Women's Conference and is a life member of Town & Gown. As a student, Wong helped establish the Asian Pacific American Student Services at USC and the Asian Pacific American Support Group, the predecessor to the Asian Pacific Alumni Association.

Wong has been named a leading lawyer in California and to many lists by the *Daily Journal*, including "Top Women Attorneys," "Top 25 Clean Tech Lawyers," and "Top 75 Women Lawyers." She is repeatedly recognized by leading legal and finance publications, as well as by the wind industry; recently, she was selected to IFLR1000's "Women Leaders" for 2020. 📌



Equal access to the arts

ARTS Justice sends free art kits to kids impacted by COVID-19 restrictions

By Yulia Nakagome

3L Sophie Sylla with some of the art kits distributed to schoolchildren through ARTS Justice.

As COVID-19 forced schools to transition to online learning and access to resources became a challenge, third-year law student Sophie Sylla and recent graduate Erika Ingram were concerned that the arts, often a low priority in tight school budgets, would be left behind.

Sylla, an artist and former Fulbright scholar, and Ingram, whose career interest is public interest law, teamed up on ARTS Justice, a project distributing free arts kits with a social justice focus. Sylla's experience with arts justice work as a legal intern at the ACLU of Southern California inspired the project.

This summer, ARTS Justice received a Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund Rapid Response Fulbright grant for Fulbright alumni doing work in response to COVID-19. The \$10,000 grant facilitated creation and distribution of 500 kits to Los Angeles-area schools and agencies in vulnerable communities. ARTS Justice is working on raising another \$10,000 toward 500 additional kits.

"I'm an artist, I come from a family of artists, and I've been lucky enough to have the arts in my life," Sylla says. "I've met youth who were the most talented artists — I could barely teach them because they were far, far more talented than I am. They just lack opportunity. That's a problem that can be fixed."

Ingram's background includes working in Gould's Post-Conviction Justice Project and as a legal intern at the Children's Law Center of California in Monterey Park, Calif. She met Sylla in the USC Black Law Students Association and Public Interest Law Foundation, and when Sylla mentioned ARTS Justice, Ingram was eager to get involved.

"Once I found out this summer that [Sophie] was working on this project, it was a natural yes," Ingram says. "I wanted to help her in any way and support this project and the mission."

The art kits, inspired by the movie *Black Panther*, include a movie poster, a comic strip and an action



figure. Kids are encouraged to create a superhero version of themselves. The workbook guide features Sylla's example: Lady Liberty, attorney by day, freedom fighter at night.

Laura Goldin, an art teacher for the Los Angeles Unified School District, called ARTS Justice "a great resource to learn about equality."

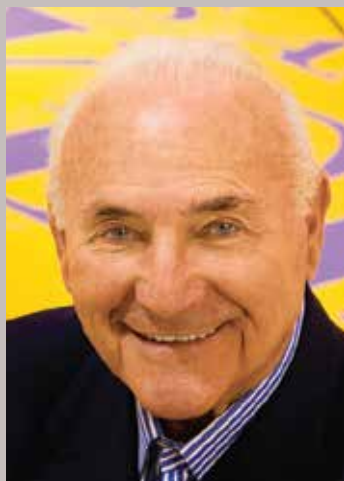
"It's important for Black and Brown students to feel empowered and know they have a voice," Goldin says. "Art is a form of non-verbal therapy, and with everything going on with COVID, it's great that students have access to art supplies as an outlet to express themselves." 🍌

JEFFREY BABENER (JD 1973), 71, passed away on March 16. Babener's legal practice in Oregon represented multi-level marketing companies. He is remembered by his wife, Roz Babener; children, Rebecca, Jeremy and Rachel; and two grandchildren, Sam and Ani.

MARV LEVIN (BS 1948, LLB 1951), 95, passed away on May 30. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, and sons Greg (Helen) and Randy (Monique).

HON. SALLY MELOCH (JD 1987), 58, passed away June 16 following a battle with cancer and Alzheimer's disease. She was an assistant United States attorney for 21 years between 1989 and 2010. As a federal prosecutor in Los Angeles, she served as a deputy chief and chief of the major crimes section and helped to lead the federal response in Los Angeles to the events of 9/11. Meloch also served as the deputy chief of the criminal division and the executive assistant U.S. attorney, a position third in command at the U.S. Attorney's office. She received many awards, including the Attorney General's Award, the highest honor given to federal prosecutors by the Department of Justice. In 2010, she was appointed to the bench of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, where she served as a judge until 2016. She leaves behind a husband and teenaged daughter.

JAMES MCADAMS (JD 1975), 74, an attorney and member of the California Bar since 1975, passed away on June 4. McAdams was known for his groundbreaking work in maritime personal injury litigation and worker's compensation claims. Several of the appeals handled by McAdams on behalf of injured workers under the Longshore Act have resulted in the creation of new laws. McAdams attended the Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I., and was an ensign assigned to teach at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif. There, he developed 12 courses in history and government, and was promoted to full lieutenant. After completing law school at USC, McAdams worked in personal injury law with the Los Angeles firm of Magaña, Cathcart, and Pierry, and later, with his own partnership of Pierry & McAdams PC in San Pedro, Calif. McAdams was very involved with the L.A. and Long Beach Legal Aid foundations, including being a stalwart at Long Beach's renowned Grand Cru wine competition and tasting events, which raised more than \$1 million.



JAMES L. "JIM" PERZIK (BS 1951, JD 1962), 91, died on Nov. 11 from complications of COVID-19. Perzik was the longtime legal counsel of the Los Angeles Lakers professional basketball team and Dr. Jerry Buss, the team's majority owner. He joined the Lakers in 1991 as the team's general counsel and was promoted to senior vice president of legal affairs and secretary in 2014. He had previously worked with

Buss to purchase the Lakers from Jack Kent Cooke in 1979, along with the Los Angeles Kings professional hockey team and The Forum, where the Lakers played for seven years. He was a key figure in the formation of Prime Ticket Network, the Lakers' move to Staples Center and the team's \$5-billion broadcast deal with Comcast/Spectrum. "Jim has been a part of our Lakers family as well as an important member of our organization for many years," said Lakers

co-owner Jeanie Buss in 2014, when Perzik was promoted. "His contributions to our company and our success have been invaluable and greatly appreciated." Perzik graduated from USC with a bachelor's degree in accounting, and earned his law degree at USC Gould while working as a certified public accountant. After graduation, Perzik joined the firm of Fine and Pope as an associate attorney. He became a partner two years later at the firm, which was eventually renamed Fine, Perzik, and Friedman. He specialized in professional sports and business transactions. "While he had numerous high prolife clients, Jim was especially proud of his relationship of many years with the late Jerry Buss with whom he worked for over 50 years," Perzik's family said in a release. Perzik was born on Oct. 7, 1929, in Los Angeles to Samuel Perzik, an otolaryngologist surgeon at Cedars Sinai Medical Center, and Martha Ackerman. Perzik graduated from Los Angeles High School and served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. Perzik is survived by his wife, Judi; sons, David and Jordan; and grandsons, Tyler and Luca. No memorial service is planned. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Jim Perzik's name to the organization or charity of the donor's choice.

2020 HONOR ROLL

Maribeth Annaguey (JD 2003) was named partner at Browne George Ross, O'Brien, Annaguey & Ellis LLP.

Karine Akopchikyan (JD 2015) has been named to the 2020 Southern California *Super Lawyers* Rising Stars list. She is a litigator in Stubbs Alderton & Markiles LLP's business litigation practice group. Akopchikyan serves as vice president of the USC Gould Alumni Association.

Stephen Blaker (JD 2011), an associate with Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP, **Janani Rana (JD 2009)**, an attorney at Minyard Morris LLP, and **Paige Smith (JD 2015)**, an associate with Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth PC, have been named to the 2021 *Best Lawyers* Ones to Watch list. Rana is co-chair of the USC Gould Alumni Association Orange County committee, and Smith is a member of the association.

Milan L. Brandon II (JD 2016) wrote and published two articles in *The California Insurance Law Reporter* and *Insurance Litigation Reporter* discussing strategies and considerations for practitioners in litigating commercial property insurance claims against insurance companies in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Brandon is an associate at LiMandri & Jonna LLP in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

The Hon. **Carlton G. Davis (JD 2003)** was appointed to serve as a judge in the Sacramento County Superior Court. Judge Davis previously served as a court commissioner at the Sacramento County Superior Court since 2017. He was deputy district attorney at the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office from 2006 to 2017, and served as a deputy district attorney at the Riverside County District Attorney's Office from 2003 to 2006.

Tracy Fehr (JD 2005) was named partner at Alexander Morrison + Fehr LLP.

Amber Finch (JD 2002) has been selected as the new partner chair of Reed Smith LLP's African American Business Inclusion Group, STAARS. Finch said of her selection, "I come into this role during a time when the Black community's daily struggles with racial injustice and systemic racism are put on full view for the world to see. I am proud to carry the baton that has been passed to forge forward and onward, continuing to make an impact within our community at Reed Smith and beyond. I am grateful to serve here at a firm that recognizes our pain, frustration, and anger during this time, and is committed to speak up, denounce injustice, and take action to support our people and do its part to change the narrative."

Uri Fleming (JD 2004) was named head of business affairs for unscripted television at Amazon Studios. Fleming has been with Amazon Studios since 2016. Prior to joining Amazon Studios, Fleming was a partner with Kleinberg Lange Cuddy & Carlo LLP.

Steffi Gascón Hafen (JD 2010), a partner at Snell & Wilmer LLP, was selected for the 2020 *Super Lawyers* Southern California Rising Stars list for estate planning and probate.

Daniel M. Goldberg (JD 2011) was named partner in the Los Angeles office of Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz PC. He will serve in the firm's privacy and data security group and advertising technology group.

Justin M. Goldstein (JD 1998), chair of the litigation practice group at Sklar Kirsh LLP, has been recognized by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* with its LA500 Award. The annual award honors "the most influential, most powerful, and most impactful business professionals in the region" and includes 500 executives and business leaders, trendsetters and thought leaders across industries who drive economic growth in Los Angeles and Southern California. Goldstein was one of fewer than 50 lawyers to be included in this elite group. Goldstein is a frequent guest lecturer at USC Gould, UCLA Law and Southwestern Law School on topics including idea submission law, right of publicity and remedies for litigation misconduct.



Daniel Guggenheim (JD 2004) and **Erin Natter (JD 2006)** will join Mintz Levin PC's Los Angeles office as members.

Dana Gutierrez (BA 1993, JD 1997) was confirmed judge of the Superior Court of Guam after her nomination by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero. She will serve in family court.

Maria Hall (JD 2003) and **Matthew Strugar (JD 2005)** were honored at the National Lawyers Guild annual awards celebration in November. Hall is the Guild's co-president and was recognized for her work as a solo practitioner focusing on civil rights, environmental justice, and pro bono activist legal defense. She runs the LA Incubator Consortium, helping new solo attorneys committed to closing the access to justice gap. Strugar was honored for his work as part of the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition Legal Team, which won a game-changing lawsuit against the Los Angeles Police Department this year, forcing the agency to disclose countless public records revealing harmful policing of activists and communities of color.

Nicole S. Houman (JD 2016) founded The Property People in Miami, Fla. The law firm's mission is to protect the personal and financial investment of property ownership. Prior to founding her own firm, Houman was an associate at Bressler Amery & Ross, PC.

Ayano Ichida (JD 1997) joined Miramax as executive vice president of compliance. Prior to joining Miramax, Ichida was general counsel at WDI International, Inc.

Conrad Mallett, Jr. (JD 1979), former Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice, was named by Mayor Mike Duggan as Detroit's deputy mayor. Mallett served in the Michigan State Supreme Court from 1990 through 1999 and was the chief justice in 1997 and 1998. Most recently, he was the chief administrative officer at the Detroit Medical Center. He also sits on the board of directors for Lear Corporation in Southfield, Mich.

Autumn L. Moore (JD 2010) was named co-chair of the labor and employment section of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles.

Elywill Zamora Paja (LLM 2018) was promoted to associate general counsel at WEBTOON. She is a member of the USC Gould Alumni Association's Los Angeles committee.

Dean G. Rallis Jr. (BS 1977, JD 1980), a veteran bankruptcy attorney with Hahn & Hahn LLP, will head the firm's new bankruptcy practice. He specializes in business reorganization, corporate insolvency, commercial and bankruptcy litigation, commercial transactions, and the acquisition of assets and businesses in bankruptcy court and out-of-court workouts.

Coby Marie Turner (JD 2009) was named a partner at Seyfarth Shaw LLP in the labor and employment department, where she represents employers in state and federal courts nationwide, primarily on wage and hour issues, and provides counseling on an array of employment issues.



Rosezetta Upshaw (JD 2011), president of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Los Angeles, was named to the National Bar Association's 40 Under 40 list. The list recognizes the nation's top 40 Black lawyers under the age of 40 who exemplify a broad range of high achievement in the legal field, including in advocacy, innovation, vision, leadership and overall legal and community involvement.

David Walsh (JD 1985) received the Alliance for Housing and Healing's annual Vanguard award on Oct. 13. The award is presented to outstanding individuals and organizations that provide extraordinary service to the Alliance.

Christiane "Chrissy" Roussell Willis (JD 2006) was promoted to senior vice president of people and organization at Sony Pictures Entertainment.

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WILLIAM CHOI (JD 1985)



“I donate to USC Gould because it has been an integral part of my success as an attorney and has helped open a lot of amazing doors in my life. I believe it is important to support

people and institutions that have helped and supported me along the way. Giving back also helps individuals who are not fortunate enough to have the opportunity to make the best decision about their future without cost being a prohibitive factor. More specifically, I understand that some African American students may have a greater need for financial support in order to pursue their legal education at USC Gould. Therefore, understanding the significance of and dire need for increased racial diversity in our legal and political system, I am more than happy to donate knowing that my financial contribution may help more African American students attend USC Gould and ultimately enrich our legal community and society.”

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“Susan and I are deeply honored to support the Hale Moot Court Honors program. The experience law students gain through moot court helps prepare them as advocates in appellate and other courtrooms. My participation in the program strengthened my writing

and analytical skills and contributed to my future success. We are so glad to give back to the education of tomorrow’s leaders at USC Gould.”

ANTHONY (JD 2000) AND SUSAN TAYLOR



“After a successful career in consulting, I went to law school in my mid-40s. I think being older allowed me to appreciate the gift of a USC Gould education. Not only did the three years at USC Gould prepare me to practice law, they also educated me in the intricacies of the law. I didn’t just learn — I was educated! I give back to the law school because I want to ensure that

USC Gould continues to attract excellent professors and that future generations have the same opportunity that I did.”

BARBARA DANZ (JD 1992)

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#GOULDTOGETHER

From IT to events to facilities to human resources, whether working remotely or socially distanced in the Musick Law Building, USC Gould School's staff went the extra mile during the pandemic. These hardworking staffers helped make learning and teaching possible during the greatest public health crisis in a century. Hats off (and masks on) to our staff!





What Will Your Trojan Legacy Be?

“Were it not for the scholarship grants and financial aid the law school provided, I would never have been able to finish my education ... law school expanded my horizons and the ways I thought about the world.” —DAVE HOWARD (JD 1970)

There are many ways to “give back” to USC Gould. One is by bequest. That’s the path Dave Howard chose. Dave’s USC ties run deep. His son Jonathan and late son Steve both graduated from USC Dornsife. Dave himself is a triple Trojan, with degrees from USC Marshall School of Business (BS ’66), USC Sol Price School of Public Policy (MPA ’70), and USC Gould (JD ’70). Dave credits Gould with preparing him for a successful 50-year career as a tax law attorney. In gratitude, Dave

and wife Susan have included USC Gould in their estate plans to endow a scholarship fund to help first-generation professional students. Read more about Dave’s story at gould.giftplans.org.

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. You may also visit us online at www.uscgould.giftplans.org.

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