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Hang Out the Shingle

Alumni leave big-firm life to open small — and thriving — boutiques

BY LORI CRAIG

PHOTOS: BILL YOUNGBLOOD

Neal Salisian '05 and Richard Lee '02

Sam Yebri '06

More than four years out of law school, Neal Salisian '05 was a senior-level associate in a prominent international law firm and had a growing business litigation practice. But increasingly he was troubled by having to turn certain clients away.

Salisian was forced to say no to business from new companies with complex legal problems that couldn't meet the expense of a big firm or didn't require its level of resources. Salisian wasn't sure these companies could go somewhere else and find the expert services they needed at a price they could afford.

An entrepreneur at heart, Salisian saw an opportunity.

"I realized there's a market out there of these growing businesses that have complex legal needs but do not have the resources or the experience to deal with them," he says. "These small businesses are priced out of the big firms, or perhaps don't have a matter that requires the approach of a big firm, but do have matters that might be beyond the capacity of a sole practitioner. I figured that over time, this could be a good opportunity to go out on my own and fill this need."

Salisian called Richard Lee '02, with whom he'd worked on a couple cases at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, and six months later, on May 1, 2010, they opened the doors of Salisian Lee, a boutique business litigation firm located in downtown Los Angeles.

Stepping out

Two months earlier, Sam Yebri '06 had left behind the prestige of big-firm life. The son of two dentists who run a small practice and the founder of two nonprofit organizations, Yebri knew even in law school that he would some day strike out on his own. Following a clerkship for U.S. District Court Judge A. Howard Matz, Yebri worked at Jones Day and Proskauer Rose before making the leap.

"I came to the realization that it was difficult to get meaningful experience as an associate," Yebri says. "I wanted control over my own destiny. I went to trial at Proskauer Rose and ran the case from start to finish and the result was great for the client and the firm, and I had the confidence that I could do this. I want to work with clients from start to finish, from retainer to settlement."

Yebri partnered with Alexander M. Merino to start Merino Yebri, a small litigation firm in Century City.

A wealth of experience

Richard B. Kendall '79, one of Los Angeles's top attorneys, also recently went his own way. As the economy was sputtering in 2008, Kendall, who was a litigation partner with a thriving practice and top media and technology clients at Irell & Manella, was hearing from his clients that it was time for a change.

"It started with a sense that, even for very sophisticated matters, the large firm wasn't always the best place to be for the client," Kendall says. "I've had lots of conversations with clients over the years expressing their perspective that they loved working with me and my team of lawyers, but weren't that happy with the constraints on us because we were part of a larger institution."

Kendall, along with Irell Partners Laura W. Brill and Robert N. Klieger, founded Kendall, Brill & Klieger, a litigation boutique that opened on May 1, 2009, and now comprises three partners, eight associates and, when needed, additional contract lawyers.

Finding a new way

The smaller shops offer new levels of autonomy and client interaction that Lee finds particularly rewarding.

"Until it becomes your own, it's hard to take 100 percent ownership. Here, we are the ones with the final say and we take responsibility, and I welcome that," Lee says. "You absolutely get to know the cases inside out; you get to know the client inside out. Our clients get in contact with us all the time, and there's a level of trust that's built there."

Kendall sees numerous advantages to practicing in a smaller firm, including fewer conflict-of-interest issues and better professional opportunities for younger lawyers. But the biggest bonus may be for the clients.

(cont. to page 2)

Alumni Meet the Challenge

BY DARREN SCHENCK

At law firms, companies and other organizations, USC Law alumni rallied their Trojan colleagues to participate in the 2010 Law Firm Challenge by making gifts of any size to the law school. At the conclusion of the annual competition, roughly 70 percent of alumni from 50 competing firms and other organizations had made a gift; 17 firms reached the overall goal of 100 percent alumni participation.

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, which boasts 49 USC Law alumni, reached 100 percent participation for the second year in a row. It was also the first Category 1 firm (30+ alumni) to do so. Ken Doran '81, the firm's chairman and managing partner, worked with Janna Boelke '03 to encourage fellow Trojans to meet the challenge.

"I've been involved in fund-raising for USC Law since I worked on the inaugural 3L Class Gift campaign as class president," says Boelke. "It was exciting to be a part of contributing to the future of USC Law. So when Ken asked me to join him as Gibson Dunn's Law Firm Challenge representative, I immediately said yes."

Boelke says participating in the challenge is an enjoyable way for alumni to give back to their law school and help ensure that current students continue to receive a first-rate legal education.

"It's also important to show the greater legal community that the law school has the support of its alumni," she says. "We especially enjoy competing against UCLA graduates in our firm — it's a friendly rivalry."

David Meyer '88 and Brandt Mori '06, who led Venable LLP to 100 percent participation, agree that alumni support is a significant measure of a law school's quality. When deciding to make a gift, Mori says he and his fellow alumni consider the education they received and the contacts they made while at USC Law.

(cont. to page 2)

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LAW FIRM CHALLENGE

4 | Alumni Scene
7 | Faculty in Focus
8 | Student Scene
10 | USC Law Life
12 | Bar Admission

HONOR ROLL

Do you have news you would like to share for the next Honor Roll? Please send an e-mail to delib@law.usc.edu. And find out what other alumni are up to by viewing Class Notes at (http://law.usc.edu/classnotes).

Phil Bosl '75 received the 2010 Volunteer Recognition Award sponsored by the USC Alumni Association.

Thomas S. Clark '73 was appointed to the Kern County Superior Court, **Richard Y. Lee '97** was appointed to the Orange County Superior Court and **Valerie Salkin '92** was appointed to the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Robert E. Dugdale '93, assistant United States Attorney, was named chief of the criminal division of the central district of California by U.S. Attorney Andre Birotte Jr.

Elaine Fischel '53 published her first book, *Defending the Enemy: Justice for the WWII Japanese War Criminals*, released in February by Bascom Hill Books. The book chronicles Fischel's experience as a secretary to the American legal team that defended Japanese war criminals in the Tokyo Trials.

John Heilman '82, a lecturer in law and mayor of West Hollywood, received the Lambda Alumni Association Recognition Award from the USC Lambda LGBT Alumni Association.

Jaime Lee '09 was appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to the Quality and Productivity Commission.

Frances Noble '72 published a new book, *Blanket of Stars: Homeless Women in Santa Monica*, released in July by Angel City Press. Her son, Ian Noble, took the photographs.

Alumni Meet *(cont. from page 1)*

"Everyone here attributes much of their success to the Trojan Network," he says. "Participating in the Law Firm Challenge is a great way to give back to USC."

Mori also says that the Law Firm Challenge allows alumni to work together in supporting their law school without the individual pressure of making a large gift.

"It's a great team-building exercise for alumni at firms like Venable to get involved in giving back to the school. If attorneys get involved from the onset of their professional careers, they are more likely to stay committed to the cause."

Both Boelke and Mori also consider the Challenge a good opportunity for networking with fellow alumni.

"We have alumni in other offices nationwide, so it was fun to be able to reach out to them," says Boelke. "I am always pleasantly surprised by the great response from our alumni."

Firms with 100 percent participation in the 2010 Law Firm Challenge:

- Arent Fox
- Baker & Hostetler
- Covington & Burling
- Crowell & Moring
- Dorsey & Whitney
- Feinberg, Mindel, Brandt & Klein
- Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
- Greenberg Glusker
- Hahn & Hahn
- Hodel Briggs Winter
- Marshack Hays
- Munger, Tolles & Olson
- Paul Hastings
- Pircher, Nichols & Meeks
- Sinnott, Puebla, Campagne & Curet
- Venable
- White & Case

For a list of all participating firms, visit (http://law.usc.edu/LFCparticipants).

Hang Out *(cont. from page 1)*

WESTSIDE STUDIO

Richard B. Kendall '79

"There's a gap in the marketplace now that used to be occupied by a number of flourishing boutiques," Kendall says. "The gap we're trying to fill is for legal services at a level of quality that's the highest you can get in even the best law firms, and in an environment that promotes maximal efficiency and has significantly lower overhead; therefore, we are able to do it at a reduced rate."

Yebri, Salisian and Lee are enjoying the flexibility to offer flat-fee arrangements and partial contingencies, an impossibility at larger firms.

"It's nice to not be bound to the rigid fee structures," Salisian says. "Whoever comes to our door, we can do everything in our power to help them."

Although the economic downturn provided an opportunity for these alumni to hang out their shingles, it was not the defining consideration. It remains to be seen whether these firms are part of a larger trend in the legal industry or a natural phase of growth in the boutique market.

"It's unclear how, over the longer term, the big firms will respond to the downturn and whether the clients will get more insistent on changes in terms of rate flexibility and the use of young lawyers," says Bryant Danner, a visiting professor of law at USC who is examining the evolution of large law firms. "It's encouraging to see movement in the clients demanding changes. An increasing number of lawyers are doing just what these alumni have done. The reason these things are working out is these lawyers were well-trained, could bring clients with them and give these clients a lot of immediate, personalized, high-quality services with less expensive costs."

Acknowledging their roots

Although he's settling into the role of boutique litigator, Yebri wouldn't trade his big firm experience.

"I worked with amazingly smart, experienced lawyers, some of whom really enjoyed teaching associates, and I otherwise couldn't be doing what I am now," he says. "I learned from the big firms, because you have such tight deadlines, you have to get good work done quickly. And it's been a valuable skill."

Salisian, a veteran of Morgan Lewis, and Lee, who worked at Holland & Knight prior to stints with Morgan Lewis and Hunt Ortmann, note that they aren't in competition with their former employers, and that the referrals go both ways.

"We earned their trust, and we trust them, so they're really the first people who give us a call and vice versa," Lee says.

"Coexistence is not only possible but desirable," Danner says. "Big firms are always going to be needed when you have a huge litigation or major transaction that requires not only a high level of expertise but a high volume of people. General counsel who are farming out business will be thoughtful about choosing between big firms or smaller firms populated with lawyers they already know."

Taking the plunge

It took no small amount of ambition and dedication for these alumni to leave the larger firms. Attorneys considering a similar move should above all want to own their own business, Salisian says.

"These past six months have been by far the hardest I've worked, but they've also been the most pleasurable," he says. "Every day is a new adventure, and whatever challenges do come, they aren't as daunting because it's your business."

Yebri and the others also turned to the USC Law alumni network for advice and support. He attended a presentation at the law school on starting one's own firm, organized by recent sole practitioner Aaron Aftergood '05, and then did some modern and traditional marketing, with announcement cards, e-mail blasts and phone calls. He also is part of a small group of young attorneys with sole or small practices. Group members turn to each other for business advice and referrals.

For an experienced and respected litigator like Kendall, the risk in moving on was small. All of his Irell clients (whom he'd brought to the firm) followed him to KBK. And Lee, Salisian and Yebri say that in the months they spent preparing to open their doors, the risk level diminished as their groundwork increased. Today, they are reaping the rewards. The firms are growing faster than anticipated and the founders expect to hire more attorneys in the coming months.

Kendall says his firm will continue to grow, but that the appropriate size remains a work in progress. Given his success, does he wish he'd made the move sooner?

"A lot of people ask me that question, and I think the answer is, maybe so, but I had a wonderful set of experiences leading up to this, so I don't have any regrets," Kendall says. "After I left the U.S. Attorney's Office [in 1985, following a five-year stint as assistant U.S. Attorney], I had a series of wonderful partners and great opportunities in outstanding larger firms, and great support that they provided for my practice. Sure, it might have been fun to have started this latest endeavor a few years earlier because I'm having such a wonderful time doing it, but I was having a terrific time where I was, too."

Family Law Comes of Age

BY LORI CRAIG

Steve Mindel ’85 knows the value of a good education; he worked harder than most to obtain his.

Mindel’s father passed away when Mindel was in high school, and the tenacious self-starter worked to put himself through college and law school. Today, Mindel directs that same determination toward his family law practice, Feinberg, Mindel, Brandt & Klein (FMBK), which opened its doors in 1996.

“For me, practicing law is a choice, and I love practicing family law,” says Mindel, who also has worked as general counsel to an international jeweler and practiced with Sheppard Mullin. “Family law, along with bankruptcy, is the last generalist practice. We deal with property, businesses, pensions, child and spousal support, and child custody and visitation. We work with all types of experts: accounting, vocational employment, medical. We touch on pretty much every single area of law and it’s really interesting.”

The family law business found Mindel, and he found he enjoyed it. He started what he thought would be a small corporate transactional practice, but contacts and USC Law classmates kept sending him divorce cases.

“Next thing I knew, three-quarters of my day was doing divorce,” he said.

He teamed up with Jeremy Kline ’85 in 1990 to open a family law and civil litigation practice. In addition to being partners, the men are brothers-in-law, as they are married to sisters. Mindel met his wife, Nancy ’86, while in law school.

In the years since, Mindel has been happy to see the reputation of the profession improve from being “on par with used car salesmen” to being a respected one.

Changes in California law and the creation of the state bar’s Certified Family Law specialization have helped professionalize the industry. Mindel, himself a Certified Family Law Specialist, encourages all the lawyers at his firm, which also handles probate and civil litigation, to pursue the appropriate certification: FMBK currently has seven family law specialists, including Kline, who is on the state bar Family Law Advisory Commission; one attorney who passed the exam and hopes to receive her certification in the coming months; and one estate planning, trust and probate law specialist.

“Education is a priority in our firm, and with knowledge comes power,” Mindel says.

Alex Grager ’04, an FMBK associate, successfully completed the exam last fall and is now one of the youngest Certified Family Law Specialists in the state. To prepare, he completed a seven-day prep course during the summer and took a week off before the exam to study.

“It’s different from the bar exam because instead of needing to know a lot of subjects, you need to know this one area of law very well,” Grager said. “It’s quite deep and the preparation for it was very intense.”

Grager also had to have at least five years’ experience and participated in a required number of trials, judgments and hearings in order to get credentialed. But the payoff is worth it, he says.

“In family law, you really need to know what you’re doing because it’s such a complex area of law,” Grager says. “I have a degree in psychology, and I try to draw the line at being a psychologist for my clients, though I do have to be a little of that, too. They look to us for answers to questions about financial decisions, parenting, personal problems, and it puts a lot of responsibility on us but also forces us to come to creative solutions.”

Remembering the early days of what he thought would be a very different practice, Mindel is thankful for the USC Law alumni network that set him on his current career path, growing FMBK to 16 attorneys. He and wife, Nancy, as well as Kline and Grager, return the favor by participating in alumni and student mentoring events.

“I actually decided to go to USC after taking a tour and visiting with the Career Services Office,” Mindel says. “They support their alumni, there’s no doubt about that.”

BILL YOUNGBLOOD

Steve Mindel ’85, Alex Grager ’04, Jeremy Kline ’85

Boston’s Head of the Class

BY MARIA IACOBO

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Victoria Dodd’s enthusiasm for academia and history is equaled only by her love of teaching law in Boston. Dodd ’78 has been a member of Boston’s Suffolk University Law School faculty since 1981, with an expertise in education law. The second edition of her book, *Practical Education Law for the Twenty-First Century,* was just published by Carolina Academic Press.

The Los Angeles native credits her grandfather, prominent Los Angeles attorney and former president of the Los Angeles County Bar Association Walter L. Nossaman, with influencing her lifelong passion for learning.

“He was very scholarly, even though he had a busy practice,” says Dodd. “In his free time he wrote law review articles and a treatise on trust law.”

After graduating from Radcliffe College, Dodd earned her secondary school teaching credentials at USC and taught high school English for a few years before enrolling at USC Law. One of her fondest memories is earning her Order of the Coif medallion, which she wears on a bracelet with her grandfather’s honorary coif medallion received from USC in 1953.

After graduation, Dodd accepted a position with a litigation firm, but found the work was not to her liking. An opportunity teaching legal writing at Loyola Law School led her to academia. Moving east for personal reasons, Dodd accepted a tenure-track position at Suffolk University Law School. Her love for Suffolk and Boston has kept the Californian there.

“Boston is a fantastic place to live,” Dodd says. “There is a world-class art scene, symphony and opera — and it’s accessible.”

Dodd says Boston is a great place for an academic as well, noting it’s “the higher education capital of the world” and the site of the nation’s first public school.

“It’s a great place to study constitutional law,” she says, noting that many provisions of the Bill of Rights were based on events that took place in Boston during the American Revolution. The law school is located in the middle of this rich history. It sits on the Freedom Trail, across the street from a small burial ground where three signatories of the Declaration of Independence lie, and a block from the old Massachusetts State House — the balcony from which the Declaration was read.

Dodd holds fond memories of USC Law and is grateful for the excellent education she received as well as the collegial environment it provided. Dean Dorothy Nelson remains a mentor and someone from whom she still receives feedback on her many published articles.

“USC was a friendly, warm, welcoming school — and it still is!” she marvels.

A member of her recent 30th law school reunion planning committee, Dodd says three of her professors joined their former students, to the delight of the class.

“The teaching was outstanding, and I don’t think that’s emphasized enough,” Dodd says. “Dean [Scott] Bice was my professor for federal courts and civil procedure. I use some of his teaching techniques for my classes.”

She still thinks fondly of Dean Bice.

“You don’t always find that mix of someone who is a great teacher and scholar, and who also is warm and friendly.”

As she walks Suffolk’s impressive halls, Dodd is greeted by passing students. In her office, a handmade card from a class of constitutional law students lists comments she made in class that they found memorable; the students labeled the card “The Doddstitution.”

Evidently, Professor Dodd has developed the same mix of professorial qualities she admires — just 3,000 miles from USC Law.

Jefferson Gross ’93 Joins Board of Councilors

BY LORI CRAIG

MIKEL HEALEY

The newest member of USC Law’s Board of Councilors travels 600 miles to attend meetings. Jefferson W. Gross ’93, a Salt Lake City resident, had returned to campus for football games since graduation, but during his visit for the September BOC meeting, he spent some time getting reacquainted with the USC grounds.

“I strolled around campus, and was just blown away by all the improvements,” said Gross, a trial attorney and partner at Burbidge Mitchell & Gross. “Because I’ve been geographically distant, I’m still in that learning stage so I can contribute to the Board of Councilors intelligently. I was very flattered to be asked to serve and I look forward to contributing to the law school.”

Gross “caught the bug” for trial work in his first year out of law school. Having discovered during his summer internships that big firms weren’t for him, Gross took a job with Richard Hodge ’55 after graduation and soon rose to the challenge of his first trial.

“I really enjoy the drama of the courtroom,” he says, admitting that what he loves about trial work are likely the same elements that keep others away.

“A lot of it is just the pressure to perform,” he says. “You’re at the lectern and whether you’re arguing to a judge or a jury, or examining a witness, it’s all in your hands. I can’t rely on a team of people to make that argument or examine that witness. You’re on the spot.”

After five years at the firm, Gross returned to his native Utah and joined what became Burbidge Mitchell & Gross, where he has practiced for the past 12 years. The six-attorney firm specializes in trial work, handling cases that cover any number of areas of law and that are likely to go to trial.

“I’ve had trials in everything from real estate disputes to patent cases to wrongful death, and everything in between,” Gross says. “We hire specialists to educate us on the nuances of certain areas of law, but I think there’s a particular skill in trying a case, knowing what works, what doesn’t, what messages sell to juries and how to prepare that case through the discovery phase so that when you are at trial, there’s limited risk in putting on your case.”

Gross gravitated toward the theatrical while attending USC Law as well.

“Besides the friendships and relationships with my classmates, with whom I’m still in touch, I’ll never forget some of the professors and classes because they were both interesting and entertaining,” Gross said. “Professors like [former Dean Scott] Bice — who made torts entertaining — are who stand out in my mind.”

Outside of work, Gross engages in more physical pursuits. He is an avid golfer and skier, enjoying the pristine Wasatch Mountains located just minutes from his home with his wife, Jodi, and children Sophie, 10, Max, 7, and Meredith, 6.

Miami Nice: Lisa Hu Barquist ‘89

BY DARREN SCHENCK

On a recent afternoon, Lisa Hu Barquist ’89 was at her home in Miami, nursing a bruised and battered right hand. A stray dog she had just rescued “turned out to be an alpha male” and attacked one of her other dogs, “who, as it turns out, is also an alpha male.” Barquist pulled the dogs apart but suffered several bites.

According to her friends and colleagues, the incident typifies Barquist: a generous and compassionate human being who is extremely focused and has “an indomitable will to win.”

A former federal prosecutor and currently a litigator with the boutique complex commercial litigation firm Payton & Associates, LLC, Barquist disregards the arm’s-length list of accomplishments that outline her career, preferring to praise her family, especially her mother. A native of China who fled to Taiwan, Li Chun Hsaio was spared the foot-binding her own mother endured and instead pursued an education. With her father’s support, she became a lawyer, an almost unheard-of achievement in her native country.

Barquist’s parents uprooted themselves again, moving to California when Lisa and her twin sister, Wendy, were four years old.

“Like most immigrant parents, they came to this country so their daughters could have a better education and a better life,” Barquist says.

The sisters graduated from Yale University before returning to Los Angeles. Wendy attended medical school at USC, so Lisa — choosing to remain close to her sister — attended USC Law.

During summers, Barquist worked at the Securities and Exchange Commission in New York City, the district attorney’s office in Los Angeles and a private firm.

Upon graduation, she returned to private practice, where she spent five successful but not necessarily fulfilling years.

“I wasn’t enjoying what I was doing,” says Barquist. “When my husband, a trauma surgeon, got a job in Miami, I saw that as a great opportunity to join the U.S. Attorney’s Office.”

As a federal prosecutor, Barquist worked on cases involving everything from narcotics and money laundering to Medicare fraud. She says the work defied the clock-punching government job stereotype.

“We worked seven days a week, 16 hours a day,” she says. “I was lucky to work with people who were committed and devoted, who were also so smart and so funny. No one was doing it for the money.”

Barquist’s work ethic, intellect and commitment have served her well since her return to private practice. Harry Payton, principal of Payton & Associates, says upon meeting Barquist, he immediately was impressed.

“She was so pleasant, direct and focused,” he says. “I would describe Lisa as an honorable person. She’s a great team player, a hard worker and selfless. She also has an indomitable will to win.”

When she’s not doing complex commercial litigation, Barquist devotes much of her time to serving as an advocate for the Chinese-American community. The groups she has helped lead, and by whom she has been feted, include the Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Florida China Chamber of Commerce and the Chinese Cultural Foundation.

“I don’t see myself as taking a leadership role,” she says. “I see myself as being able to facilitate and provide resources to the Asian community.”

She explains: “There are many Chinese in Miami who don’t speak English and don’t know what services are available. Also, many of these people had no education even in their native country, so they are disenfranchised.”

Shawn Khosravi, chair of the Miami-Dade County Asian-American Advisory Board, has worked with Barquist for the past four years, most recently on raising and awarding $25,000 scholarships.

“I consider her a Superwoman. Her seriousness and hard work can only be matched by her enthusiasm and absolute commitment to get the job done,” he says. “Her ability to balance her personal life as a mom, a practicing attorney and a community activist is amazing.”

Despite her successes at work, in the community and even with finding homes for stray dogs, Barquist labors in the shadow of loss. When she moved to Miami, she left behind her sister, who four years ago went into cardiac arrest after being ill for several years. Wendy has been in a coma and on life support since.

“We all have issues and problems and sadness. No one has a monopoly on that,” Barquist says. “We continue with our lives. I raise my daughter as best I can, contribute to the community as best I can, help clients as best I can. I don’t see my life as different from anyone else’s.”

PABLO LAPETINA

In Memoriam

JOHN JOSEPH BRANDLIN '38 died on May 26, 2010, at the age of 96. A native of Illinois, Brandlin earned his B.A. from the University of Illinois and his J.D. from USC Law. During World War II, he served in the Army, where he progressed from private to captain in the Judge Advocate General's Department. During his 50-year legal career, Brandlin was the attorney for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles for 25 years. He was a volunteer officer for Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, United Way of Los Angeles and St. Joseph's Health Support Alliance, and a co-founder of QueensCare, a public charity dedicated to providing quality healthcare to the uninsured. He was appointed a Papal Knight of St. Gregory. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Judith; sons, John Jr. and Steven; daughters, Kathryn, Carol, Barbara, and Margaret; eighteen grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

THEODORE P. SHIELD '48 died on May 31, 2010. He was 89. A World War II veteran with the Army Air Corps, Shield graduated from U.C. Berkeley and earned his LL.B. from USC Law. An active trial lawyer for over 60 years, he spent the last 19 years of his career serving as counsel to the firm of Ford, Walker, Haggerty & Behar. He was president of the International Association of Defense Counsel and served on the board of directors and executive committee of the Defense Research Institute. He was elected to the board of governors for the State Bar of California, where he served for three years. He was a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the International Society of Barristers. He was also a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, which elected him Trial Lawyer of the Year in 1974. He was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Charleen. He is survived by his daughters, Fain, Brier, and Kerry; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

CLYDE L. BRONN '49 died on Aug. 4, 2010. He was 88. A distinguished World War II Navy pilot, he earned two Navy Crosses, three Air Medals and two Presidential Unit Citations while serving on the U.S.S. Lexington and Randolph. Bronn, who received his undergraduate and law degrees from USC, practiced law in Long Beach for more than 40 years. He was active in a number of community organizations including service as president of the Long Beach Bar Association, the YMCA of Greater Long Beach and the Rotary Club of Long Beach. He was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Geraldine. He also is survived by his daughters, Sandy Westra and Cheryl Moore; two grandsons; and six great-grandchildren.

STUART S. HILLMAN '51 died on May 13, 2010. He was 84. A passionate philanthropist, Hillman built a thriving law practice while serving his community with numerous diverse contributions. Following his service in the Army during World War II, he received his undergraduate and law degrees from USC. He led the board of the Child & Family Guidance Center and the board of Hillside Memorial Park. He served on the boards of Temple Israel of Hollywood and the Brandeis-Bardin Institute, where he received the President's Volunteer Service Award. Hillman was active in the Jewish Federation and was recognized for his dedication to refugee resettlement. His most enthusiastic endeavor was his volunteer position at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where he assisted families and patients in the cardiac care unit and worked with the rabbinic chaplain. He was elected to the Board of Governors at Cedars-Sinai in 2007. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Marion; children, Ron, Lori, and Julie; and four grandchildren.

ROBERT CLYDE COOK '56 died on July 31, 2010. He was 82. A fourth-generation Californian, Cook was a lawyer and real estate developer who was instrumental in the redevelopment of Old Sacramento in Sacramento, Calif. He was one of the first investors to take on the challenge of restoring properties in the city's historic waterfront district by purchasing and refurbishing buildings on Skid Row. He maintained his business office in Old Sacramento for 40 years. Cook earned his B.A. from St. Mary's College and his J.D. from USC Law. He was a member of the Pioneer Society, Del Paso Country Club and Sutter Club. An avid golf and tennis player and an expert skier on snow and water, Cook loved spending time with his grandchildren, who knew him as "Captain." He was predeceased by daughter Wendy. He is survived by his wife, Jane; five children; and 11 grandchildren.

FRED TORU YASUNAGA '58 died July 18, 2010, at the age of 85. After graduating from USC Law, Yasunaga opened a law firm in Los Angeles, where he practiced for 25 years. He loved to play golf and travel, especially to Japan and Europe. He is survived by his wife, Harue; son, Robert; daughters, Carol Byers and Gail Walther; nine grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

PETER BURUM '60 died on September 16, 2010. He was 85. Born in Los Angeles, Burum served as a captain in the Army during World War II and the Korean War, where he was decorated with two bronze stars and a silver star. After earning his J.D. at USC, Burum practiced law for many years, including as an executive at Sinclair Paint Company. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Barbara; son, Douglas; daughters, DruAnn and Kimberly; and seven grandchildren.

CHARLES E. LLOYD '61 died on March 30, 2010. He was 75. A Mississippi native, Lloyd graduated from California State University, Los Angeles, and then earned his J.D. at USC Law while working as a police officer. Lloyd began his legal career at the Los Angeles City Attorney's office, where he became the first African-American to be promoted to chief trial deputy. After founding the firm Lloyd, Bradley, Burrell & Nelson with future mayor Tom Bradley, he eventually started his own firm, Charles E. Lloyd Corp. Among his numerous honors, Lloyd was named trial attorney of the year by the Los Angeles County Bar Association in 1992; received commendations from The Brotherhood Crusade, the USC Black Law Students Association and the National Bar Association; and was the 2009 lifetime achievement recipient of the Los Angeles Criminal Courts Bar Association's Johnnie Cochran Memorial Award. He is survived by his wife, Anslyene; his daughter, Janet Marie; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

DERRILL E. YAEGER '63 died on September 5, 2010. He was 83. A longtime real estate and land use attorney, Yaeger helped pave the way for some of the Inland Empire's biggest developments. He was a partner at the civil firm Clayson, Mann, Yaeger & Hansen, where he worked for 45 years before retiring in 2008. After serving in the Army Corps in World War II, he received his undergraduate degree from La Sierra University in Riverside, Calif., and his J.D. from USC Law. He played an essential role in negotiating the sale of La Sierra's surrounding farmland, which eventually became Riverwalk — a sprawling master-planned development set around a river with hundreds of homes, commercial buildings and other amenities. For his efforts and active involvement in alumni affairs, La Sierra University named its entrance in Yaeger's honor. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Francee; his daughter, Neddi; his daughter-in-law, Andrea; and four grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son, Kurt.

DONALD F. ZIMMER '63 died on May 14, 2010. He was 76. After serving as a pilot and officer in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, he attended Riverside City College and earned his J.D. from USC Law. During his 45-year legal career, he became widely respected for his expertise in real estate, water law, and trusts and estates. He was a partner at Best, Best & Krieger and founded two smaller firms — Zimmer & White and Zimmer & Singer — before returning to BB&K, where he retired in 2008. An active participant in community affairs, Zimmer was a longtime member of Kiwanis and a co-founder of environmental group "Clean Air Now," and he served on the boards of the Riverside Community Fund and the Heritage House and Mission Inn foundations. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Cathy; sons, Fritz and Eric; daughter, Catherine Ann; and four grandchildren.

MICHAEL ALAN GREENE '70 died on June 22, 2010. He was 65. A native of Los Angeles, Greene earned his undergraduate degree from U.C. Berkeley and his J.D. from USC Law. As a partner at Greenberg Glusker for 37 years, Greene made a point of mentoring new attorneys, impressing on them the importance of dedication to clients and professional integrity. He served on the boards of both the Western Center on Law and Poverty and the ACLU Foundation, where he also served on the legal committee. A lifelong athlete, Greene always made time for skiing, biking and horseback riding. His survivors include his wife, Beth Burnam; mother, Dorothy, and stepfather, Paul Toeppen; sons, Josh and Max; daughters, Sara and Maggie; stepsons, Michael and Richard Burnam-Fink; grandson, Ezra; and sister, Marcia Ullett.

The Hon. Howard B. Turrentine '39

Turrentine, center, with wife, Marlene, and Dave Walsh '85.

Howard B. Turrentine, a retired senior U.S. District Court judge, died on Aug. 20, 2010, at his home in Point Loma, Calif. He was 96.

Turrentine was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District in 1970 by President Richard M. Nixon. He served as chief judge from 1982 through 1984, assuming senior status in January of that year. Although Turrentine was then 70 years old and had the option of working a reduced schedule, he maintained a full calendar for an additional 23 years, spending 15,255 hours on the bench during his 40-year tenure.

A lifelong resident of San Diego, Turrentine graduated from San Diego State University in 1936 and USC Law in 1939. He was a decorated Navy veteran and served in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II. He rose to the rank of lieutenant commander and received several awards, including the Commendation Medal for his intelligence work during the Philippine Campaign and preparation for the Battle of Surigao Strait in 1944.

After the war, Turrentine returned to San Diego to open his own practice, which he ran for the next 20 years. While doing so, he served as president of the San Diego County Bar Association, as well as on the subcommittee on Judicial Improvements. In 1968 he was appointed by then-Gov. Ronald Reagan to the San Diego Superior Court, where he served for two years until his U.S. District Court appointment.

In 2002, Turrentine made the first gift to The Honorable Howard B. Turrentine Fund at USC Law, established by a group of his former clerks. The endowment provides scholarships to law students who either reside in San Diego County or have completed their undergraduate education there. In addition, the endowment also funded the Howard B. Turrentine Video Center at the Law Library and sponsors semi-annual clerkship receptions.

Turrentine is survived by his wife, Marlene; son, Robert; daughter, Terry; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Q&A

with Prof. Tom Griffith

BY DARREN SCHENCK

BILL YOUNGBLOOD

Tom Griffith is the John B. Milliken Professor of Taxation at USC Law, where he teaches Federal Income Taxation, Criminal Law, and Criminal Procedure. Prof. Griffith became interested in studying the tax system when he was a law student at Harvard. He is the co-author of *Federal Income Tax: Examples and Explanations* as well as numerous articles on tax law. The holder of a master's degree in education from Harvard and formerly a high school teacher for seven years, Griffith is not only a renowned tax scholar but also a celebrated law school teacher. In 2009, he was awarded USC Law's William A. Rutter Distinguished Teaching Award.

What drew you to studying tax law?
When I was in law school, I took a number of courses in which we discussed topics that could have an effect on the rights of poor people or on the distribution of income. The tax system seemed to have the greatest impact on the largest number of people. This system helps determine how an economy is run and addresses important distributional questions that affect the well-being of people in all income brackets.

Also, there was the influential article, "The Uneasy Case for Progressive Taxation," by Walter Blum and Harry Kalven, in which they argued that there were not strong reasons to redistribute income from wealthy people to poor people. I thought it was wrong and that it did not reflect more recent research on the impact of the redistribution of income. So I felt the issue was important to address. [The article, written with Joseph Bankman, was called "Social Welfare and the Rate Structure: A New Look At Progressive Taxation."]

How can a scholar working in tax law influence legislators and others who make public policy?
I think the academic literature can set a tone for public officials. Even though you don't expect legislators to actually read your law review articles, the tenor of the debate in academia can have a significant effect on public policy.

Obviously, everyone hates paying taxes...
I like paying taxes! It's a fair price for a civilized society.

Okay, but most people would probably agree that the tax code is too complex.
I think it's important to distinguish between the complexity of the tax code for most Americans and the complexity that it presents to wealthier Americans and businesses. For some higher-income Americans and for businesses, including small businesses, the tax code can be quite burdensome. For many Americans, especially those taking the standard deduction, the tax code is not very complex.

In 1986, in an historic agreement between the Reagan administration and the Democratically controlled Congress, a tax act was passed that, although not perfect, substantially simplified the tax code and lowered rates. Since that time, under presidents both Democratic and Republican, the code has become more complex, with special provisions being added to it. So moving back to a system that has fewer deductions and exclusions, as well as lower tax rates — similar to that of 1986 — would be desirable.

A bipartisan commission appointed by President George W. Bush that included USC's recently appointed Provost Elizabeth Garrett made some useful simplifying suggestions. More recently, a bipartisan commission appointed by President Obama has also endorsed base-broadening and lower rates.

You are a popular, award-winning teacher. Can you talk about the relationship between teaching and scholarship?
I love teaching. And I think being excited about ideas and expressing that excitement to your students is going to enhance your teaching. As a teacher, you need to understand the material very well and understand how students learn. You have to be able to put yourself in the place of a student to see how your words are going to be understood by the student.

I've also learned a great deal from students: their suggestions have helped me to improve my teaching. Student evaluations are valuable, but they tend to be too terse. You need to be interactive and have personal conversations with students. Exams are important, too; we read every one of our student exams, which helps you learn what you've taught effectively. If you see that answers on a particular topic aren't very good, then that suggests that you need to change the way you teach that topic.

This semester, you began teaching Criminal Procedure. What was it like teaching a course for the first time?
One of the key challenges is that you need to have a deep understanding of the material. And you need to organize the material in a way that is going to be most effective for students to learn.

One of the common faculty criticisms of students using computers is that the students try to transcribe the class; they're not thinking about the material. The approach I've taken is to present students with an outline of the material, which gives them more time to think about what I'm saying.

How does it feel to be recognized for your teaching by the law school?
You're always gratified to be recognized, but one of the great things about being a teacher is that you see the students every day. If a class is going well, you come out of the class feeling happy. All the work you do at home to make the class as effective as possible makes the time in the classroom much more enjoyable.

Roithmayr Named Pfleger Chair

BY GILIEN SILSBY

MIKEL HEALEY

USC Law Prof. Daria Roithmayr has been named the holder of the George T. and Harriet E. Pfleger Chair in Law. Roithmayr is a critical race theorist who has devoted her legal scholarship to examining the intersections of race, justice and society.

Roithmayr, who joined the USC Law faculty in 2006, was honored at a Nov. 16 ceremony before friends, family and colleagues. Charles T. Whitebread, who died in 2008, formerly held the Pfleger Chair.

Dean Robert K. Rasmussen described Roithmayr as an impressive scholar, creative thinker and dedicated teacher.

"Daria's scholarship combines theoretical insights with empirical insights — drawing from biology, history, economics, sociology and psychology," Rasmussen said. "She truly embodies the type of interdisciplinary work we have become famous for at USC."

Roithmayr, whose book, *Them That's Got Shall Get: Why Racial Inequality Persists,* will be published by New York University Press, focuses her research and writing on the dynamics of racial inequality. Although intentional racial discrimination may be waning, entrenched network connections continue to reproduce racial inequities, she said.

"It takes money to make money, and because of our racially discriminatory history, whites have had an unfair early advantage," Roithmayr said. "White families earned more money because they profited from slave labor. That additional money gave them the ability in subsequent generations to buy their kids houses and pay for college."

In her next scholarly endeavor, Roithmayr plans to explore how cultural practices evolve over time and the role that law plays in them.

FOR THE RECORD

There is a new concern that America faces a longer-term fiscal crisis. What do you think would be the best package of reforms to address these problems and what hope is there for the legislative process to make hard choices?

EDWARD KLEINBARD

Professor of Law

First, a shocking fact: The United States is a low-tax country. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in 2008, the U.S. had the fourth-lowest total tax burden as a percentage of GDP – and that includes all federal, state and local taxes.

Second, the federal government spends less than do many other governments as a percentage of GDP. Nonetheless, we are a wealthy country, and we do provide a significant safety net and other benefits to our citizens. At the same time, the country is aging, and that will put increasing pressure on financing these programs.

Third, there is an immutable law of public finance, succinctly expressed by Milton Friedman: to spend is to tax. Once government spends money, it has committed itself to fund that spending through taxes.

Fourth, it's been years since we've actually paid on a current basis for the government services we all expect and enjoy. The OECD recently calculated that we entered the current deep recession with a structural deficit of around 3 percent of GDP, when at that point in the economic cycle we should have been running a balanced budget or a surplus.

It is a fool's errand to think that non-defense discretionary spending can be cut enough to bring our structural deficit under control: as is, in normal years only about 20 percent of government revenues go to non-defense discretionary spending. And while Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid are enormously expensive, cuts here will prove incredibly difficult because of the aging population and the propagation of the fiscal illusion that we "contribute" to our own retirement/healthcare benefits in a quasi-insurance arrangement.

The only resolution of the dilemma lies in higher taxes, and the only interesting question is, on whom?

The most straightforward way to increase government revenues is to make sense of the income tax, rather than to add a new consumption tax. The key to finding tax revenues through the income tax is not simply to raise marginal tax rates, but rather to focus on how much government spending is hidden in the tax code. The tax code encodes government subsidies (spending) in its structure through tax breaks (technically, "tax expenditures") not strictly required to implement an income tax. Unfortunately, the most popular hidden subsidies, like itemized personal deductions (in particular, the home mortgage interest deduction, state and local tax deduction, and charitable contribution deduction) are among the most expensive.

If we eliminated itemized personal deductions and returned to Clinton-era tax rates, the fiscal crisis would be solved, at least for the next decade or more. What's more, we could afford to do so with phase-in rules that give people time to adjust.

Eliminating major tax expenditures would make the tax code simpler, fairer and more progressive, without requiring very high marginal tax rates that would have a negative effect on economic behavior.

Very little has been asked of this generation, relative to the burdens borne by past ones. Giving up the Bush tax cuts and itemized deductions is not too big a sacrifice for us to make.

EDWARD McCAFFERY

Robert C. Packard Trustee Chair in Law and Professor of Law, Economics and Political Science

There is no doubt that America faces a serious long-term fiscal crisis. The short term isn't so great: We are running cash-flow deficits well over one trillion dollars a year. Yet this looks positively rosy compared to the long term. Stretching the mind out to 10, 20, 50 years shows staggering debt levels, higher even than their World War II peak.

The causes of a looming fiscal crisis are easy to see. On the spending side, almost no government expenditure program ever gets cut. The main culprits are the middle-class entitlement programs, Social Security and Medicare, now supplemented with prescription drug coverage and universal health care. These programs now take up more than one-half of the federal budget, and they are rising — faster than inflation. On the revenue-raising side, it has become nearly impossible to increase taxes. Indeed, policy proposals and rhetoric still center on tax cutting.

The problem is easy to see, for those who look. It is far harder to see any likely solution.

There is a story about a scorpion who asks a frog to carry him across a river. The frog balks, worried that the scorpion will sting and kill him. "Why would I do that?" the scorpion queries, "I would drown, too." Compelled by the scorpion's logic, the frog relents. Halfway across the river, the scorpion stings the frog. As both descend to their watery deaths, the frog asks the scorpion why he bit him. "Because," the scorpion replied, "it is in my nature."

I fear that that the fiscal problems we see are in the nature of our political system — Congress, the presidency, the public. We have "learned" through multiple presidencies, Democrat and Republican, that we can have our cake and eat it, too: tax cuts, spending increases. Deficit reduction is long, slow, painful and non-salient work. It is not being done. In many experiments I have run with the prominent psychologist and decision theorist Jon Baron of the University of Pennsylvania, we have found that these tendencies in people's minds run deep — focus on short-term gain, avoid short-term pain, ignore long-term anything.

What will happen? I believe that the system is going to have to change, somehow. Washington is going to lose power — to creditors, the market, new institutional designs. I suspect that this will be part of a movement throughout this century whereby America gives up its hegemony and learns to share the world's stage better with others.

If we need optimism, perhaps it lies here: that America being forced by its own lack of fiscal discipline to wake up, make adjustments, and share power more equally with others is not such a bad thing. Whether we consider it good, bad or indifferent, our current actions and longstanding pattern of inaction almost certainly leave us no other choice.

Clinic Students Fight for Human Rights

BY GILIEN SILSBY

LORI CRAIG

Hannah Garry

USC Law's director of the new International Human Rights Clinic, Hannah Garry, was just 21 years old when she began investigating and documenting human rights abuses against refugees in East Africa.

Hired by Oxford University, Garry spent 18 months as a researcher assigned to interview, photograph and report on exploited refugees from Rwanda, Sudan and the Congo. She documented rapes, recruitment of child soldiers, torture and forced labor.

After witnessing an entire Sudanese refugee village razed to the ground at gunpoint by the Ugandan army while the United Nations stood by, Garry decided she no longer wanted to be a neutral observer on the sidelines.

"I was appalled to find that after fleeing from unspeakable atrocities, refugees were facing serious abuses in exile," she says. "I knew I wanted to help in a more tangible way. I wanted to be able to help them advocate for their rights through law."

Garry graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, and within two years she was back in Africa and then at The Hague, working for the Appeals Chamber Judges at the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. She worked on cases trying perpetrators of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.

Garry, who joined USC Law last August, is now training the next generation of lawyers to work in international tribunals to fight against human rights abuses.

With her newly launched International Human Rights Clinic, Garry selected six USC Law students to work for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the Extraordinary Chamber in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

It is the first time law students at an American university will assist in the decision-making process at these tribunals. Students will partner with judges and their legal staff to bring to justice those most responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes perpetrated in Rwanda in the 1990s and in Cambodia in the 1970s.

The USC Law students selected have a range of experience with many already having worked or studied overseas. Jamie Hoffman '11 was a volunteer legal advocate for Asylum Access Tanzania last summer.

"Working with refugees has given me a unique perspective on war crimes and genocide," she says. "I have grown to understand the importance of justice and it's something I'm personally committed to."

Jesse Leff '06, a legal officer for the Trial Chambers at the ICTR, helped Garry secure a partnership with the tribunal and played a key role in figuring out how the clinic might assist the tribunals and judges.

Leff, who interned at the ICTR while a USC Law student, also offered ideas for the cases and types of assignments students could get involved with and volunteered to act as a facilitator and supervise student work.

As the clinic evolves, students will learn how to use international law as a tool for social justice in domestic and international cases.

To learn more about the international human rights clinic and how you can join this new clinic's struggle for global justice, visit (http://law.usc.edu/ihrc).

Student Honors

MIKEL HEALEY

Derek Lipkin '12

Two USC Law students have received recognition for finding innovative ways to support LGBT schoolchildren.

Derek Lipkin '12 earned a Summer Corps Standout Award, one of only 10 awarded nationwide by Equal Justice Works to students who have created innovative approaches to meeting the needs of their underserved clients.

Tina Sohaili '10 won the National LGBT Bar Association writing competition with her paper, "Securing Safe Schools: Using Title IX Liability to Address Peer Harassment of Transgender Students."

Lipkin was a summer law clerk at the Learning Rights Law Center (LRLC), whose mission is to ensure students have equitable access to the public education system. He helped implement a unique approach to using special education laws to assist gay and transgender students. The project on which Lipkin worked — the Rainbow Rights Project — helps LGBT students deal with the types of interferences, such as bullying and harassment, that can drive them out of school or impair their schoolwork.

Based in Los Angeles, the LRLC serves low-income clients and supports students' rights on issues such as special education program needs, students in the juvenile system and students with severe medical needs. Working there, Lipkin was amazed to see the single-minded dedication of its staff.

"Everyone was committed to the same goal and had a clear vision as to how to help these students," says Lipkin, a UCLA graduate. "I could see that they genuinely cared about getting services to students so they could experience the best education possible."

Sohaili's paper was chosen from more than 50 submissions to the Michael Greenberg Student Writing Competition and earned her $1,000 in prize money, publication in the *Journal of Law and Sexuality* at Tulane University Law School and registration, airfare and lodging at the 2010 Lavender Law Career Fair and Conference in Miami Beach.

The paper addresses how the federal law Title IX that mandates schools take action to remedy sex discrimination could be used to hold schools accountable for the bullying of transgender students. Holding schools liable would mean transgender students could sue schools under Title IX if the schools are indifferent to bullying.

Sohaili's firsthand experiences with LGBT friends who endure discrimination have instilled her with a desire to push for change in society.

Tina Sohaili '10

"LGBT individuals in society today aren't treated with the same dignity as other groups," says the Santa Monica native, who received her B.A. from Reed College in Portland. "Knowing a lot of LGBT individuals who face a lot of day-to-day discrimination and who have to fight a lot of prejudice makes me feel like there's a lot to be changed and that I could help bring about that change."

-Maria Iacobo and Steffi Lau

Board of Councilors Hosts Fall Clerkship Reception

The USC Law Board of Councilors' Clerkship Committee hosted its annual fall reception for first-year law students, providing a series of brief presentations from practicing attorneys who began their legal careers as law clerks.

Designed to expose 1Ls to the benefits of judicial clerkships and to encourage them to consider applying, the event invited students to network with attorneys from the event's sponsoring firms — Gibson Dunn, Irell & Manella; Jones Day; Morrison & Foerster; Munger, Tolles & Olson; O'Melveny & Myers; Paul Hastings and Sidley Austin — many of whom began their careers as clerks.

"Firm representatives are here tonight because they see this event as an investment in you and your potential," explained master of ceremonies Dave Walsh '85, a partner at Paul Hastings and chair of the BOC Clerkship Committee. "When you first come to law school, you probably don't know much about clerkships, but they are incredibly valuable."

Each of the event's speakers shared how their clerking experiences influenced their subsequent careers and enthusiastically encouraged students to strive for clerkships.

Meegan Maczek '08, a former clerk for the Hon. Terry J. Hatter in the United States District Court, Central District of California, highlighted the professional significance of clerkships.

"You get invaluable mentoring experience from the most esteemed practitioners in the legal field," said Maczek, now an associate in the litigation department of Morrison & Foerster. "Clerking gives you the chance to apply everything you learn in law school and use it in the real world."

Attending the event as a representative from Sidley Austin, partner Sean Commons '01 spoke with students about how an experience as a clerk might prepare them for firm work.

"You get the opportunity to see and work with certain laws you may never have heard of before," Commons said. "When I was clerking, I felt like I was building a tool chest of skills that would prepare me for my future."

-Sheila Grady

PHOTOS: MIKEL HEALEY

Above: Barbara Swensied '13 and Joey Khalid '13.

Left: Dave Walsh '85 speaks with 1Ls.

International Students Offer a Taste of Home

On an early fall evening, the office of Graduate and International Programs (G&IP) hosted what is one of the law school's most eagerly anticipated events: the annual International Food Fair.

With Crocker Plaza arranged into 11 different regions, hundreds of students, staff and faculty had the opportunity to taste dishes native to countries as diverse as Ethiopia, Japan and India.

Served by some of the law school's 135 international students, diners eagerly loaded their plates with dishes such as Korean BBQ beef, Cuban fried plantains, Italian penne primavera, Middle-Eastern hummus, Greek tzatziki, Indian samosas and Chinese dim sum. In the spirit of inclusion, the North American students provided dessert: mini cupcakes.

Organized by representatives from each class, the Student Bar Association, and the social chairs from G&IP, the event allows for both U.S. and international students to meet and mingle.

"The entire law school community is invited," said Misa Shimotsu-Kim, director of Graduate & International Programs. "The event was initially intended to bridge our international students to the J.D. students. In addition to our J.D./LL.M. Partnership Program, it is the main opportunity for our G&IP students to network with the J.D.s."

-Sheila Grady

PHOTOS: SHEILA GRADY

Above: G&IP students Radha Khera, Farah Alkayed and Divya Shahi with J.D. student Victor O'Connell '12.

From left: Yiyi Wang, Camil Fifer, Lezhi Zhang, Yufei Chen, Qiwen Zhang, Xingbang Xu

Students Invest Sweat Equity in USC Community

The campuses of three USC-area elementary schools are a touch more picturesque thanks to a day of manual labor by more than 200 USC Law students.

As part of the annual Orientation Service Project, students from the Class of 2013, along with a handful of 2L mentors, participated in three beautification projects: mural painting at The Dr. Theodore T. Alexander Science School, mural painting at 32nd Street Magnet School, and mural painting and landscaping at New Designs Charter School. Each campus is within a 15-minute walk from USC Law.

Braving the late-summer heat, the students spent the day improving the campuses while also getting to know their new classmates prior to the start of classes Aug. 23.

The Orientation Service Project was launched five years ago by the student-run Community Service Committee and is a collaborative effort of the offices of Public Service and Student Affairs.

"Through this project, students have an opportunity to get a glimpse of the strong bond USC has with the surrounding community," said Malissa Barnwell-Scott, director of the Office of Public Service. "This is also a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with fellow classmates, Peer Mentors, and law school staff and faculty."

-Lori Craig

LORI CRAIG

MARIA IACOBO

PRIYA SRIDHARAN

Student Law Journal Hosts Symposium on Unemployment

The *Los Angeles Public Interest Law Journal's* third annual symposium, "The Hidden Faces of Unemployment," explored how unemployment is affecting marginalized communities: LGBTs, individuals with convictions on record, immigrants and, most relevantly, public interest law students.

The journal, which comprises law students from USC, UCLA, Loyola, Pepperdine and Southwestern, gathers public interest community members each year to discuss a relevant topic.

Symposium Editor Amy Wan '11 recruited top practitioners to speak at the event.

"The public interest law community is very tight-knit, so whenever I've called up potential speakers, they've always been very gracious," Wan said.

Shayla Myers, a staff attorney at the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center, spoke about the difficulties LGBTs face in the job market, citing a study that found 40 percent of gays and lesbians face employment discrimination in hiring, firing and promotions. She said that in the face of the recession, it becomes much easier for employers to hide discrimination against LGBTs.

Despite the tough job climate, the panelists advised students to stay motivated and creative in their job searches.

"I've never seen so much change as what's happening right now and it is disconcerting," said Charles Song, panelist and Howrey LLP's West Coast pro bono manager. "But don't let it scare you. To be a public interest attorney, by definition, you need to be creative and a little blockheaded."

Other speakers included Joshua Kim, staff attorney at A New Way of Life Reentry Project; David Ackerly, directing attorney at Inner City Law Center; and Chancela Al-Mansour, directing attorney at Neighborhood Legal Services.

-Steffi Lau

Local Students Get Excited About Higher Ed

It was 1:40 p.m., and in the basement of the law school, students were having a heated debate over a case of child endangerment. A homeowner had been found to have left a chainsaw in the yard with children running around, though no one had been injured.

A student burst out of her seat. "Safe before sorry!" she exclaimed, to the cheers of her classmates.

These enthusiastic students weren't law school students. In fact, they hadn't even graduated high school.

More than 100 local high school students from Southeast High School, New Designs Charter School and Dorsey High School gathered at the law school for Mentor Day. The USC Street Law Society organized the annual event to expose local students to higher education.

During the fall semester, Street Law volunteers, mostly 1Ls, visited local middle schools and high schools to give lessons on different kinds of law.

Mentor Day was the culmination of the program, giving students a chance to listen to a law school lecture, a panel on college and a copyright lesson, and to talk with law students during lunch.

In the college panel, USC Law students spoke about their experiences applying to college. Financial aid also was discussed. Many panelists, like the visiting students, did not have family members who had gone to college.

Amanda Smith '12, president of the Black Law Students Association and a first-generation college student, had some words of advice.

"It has to be hard for all of you right now because you care about school. When I was a freshman, people would tell me, 'You talk white, you act white,' because I cared about my education, spoke properly and had a vision for my future," she said. "But I promise you that if you keep going on the path you're going, those same people will not be going anywhere. Just keep doing what you want to do, don't let anyone knock you down and you'll succeed."

The impact of the panel was apparent.

As Street Law volunteers mingled with the students at lunch, Ivana, a 10th grader at New Designs Charter School, said, "I'm glad to know that people out there want us to go to college. It's really encouraging."

For Alberto Muñoz '11, Student Bar Association president and Mentor Day panelist, the chance to participate was especially rewarding.

Muñoz grew up in South Los Angeles and though he had poor grades in high school, he attended community college and transferred to U.C. Berkeley.

Speaking from experience, Muñoz said that first-generation college students face special difficulties.

"Wanting to go to college is not expected of us," he said. "It's expected you will work, then you will have kids, they will go to college, and they will be the ones to succeed. It's never expected that you go to college."

He said programs like Street Law are instrumental in encouraging students to consider higher education.

"It's good for the students to see people like them who've made it," he said. "But the messenger doesn't matter as much as the message. As long as you get the right message across … that's why it's great to have a program like Street Law with so many people who care."

-Steffi Lau

PHOTOS: MARIA IACOBO

Michelle Mello '12 speaks to Mentor Day participants.

Left: USC Law and high school students mingle at lunch.

A Night to Reconnect and Give Back

BY STEFFI LAU

More than 500 alumni from across the country returned to the law school to reconnect with former classmates at Reunion 2010. The June 5 event was one of the law school's largest reunions yet. Members of the classes of 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005 descended on the USC campus for an all-class reception and then individual class dinners.

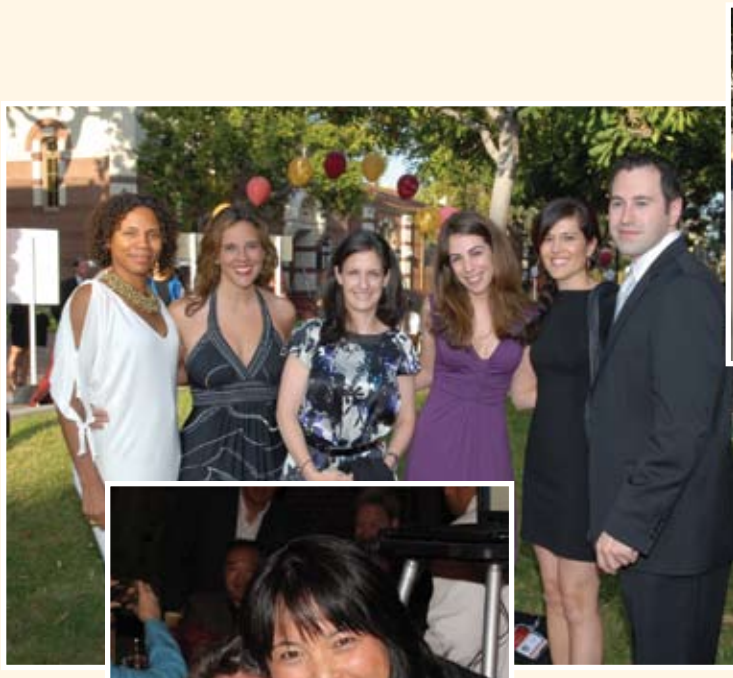
On June 4, the Golden Years Luncheon for classes prior to 1960 was held, with 75 attending. At 100 years old, Sherman Grancell '33 was the oldest attendee.

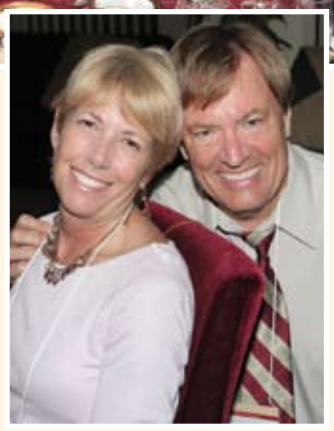
Those who attended the reunion seized the opportunity to give back to USC Law, giving about $660,000 that will go toward student scholarships. Reunion Chair Phil Bosl '75 said the evening provided alumni with a chance to reconnect with classmates and the school, as well as to give back and provide opportunities for current students facing much higher tuition expenses. Beyond giving back, classmates relished simply getting to reunite and reminisce with their peers.

"From my perspective, it was an enormous success," Bosl said. "The class committees did a great job of encouraging classes to attend and an equally great job of getting classes to give and pledge to the school. My classmates absolutely loved it and repeatedly thanked the committee for encouraging them to attend."

The next Golden Years Luncheon will be held in USC's Crocker Plaza on June 24, 2011, beginning at 11:30 a.m., for graduating classes from 1960 and earlier.

The next USC Law Reunion will be held on June 25, 2011, and it will bring together the classes of 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006. If you are interested in serving on your reunion committee, please contact Pasha Hawthorne at 213.743.1725 or phawthorne@law.usc.edu.





PHOTOS: LEE SALEM PHOTOGRAPHY

Saks Founds Institute with "Genius Grant"

BY JASON FINKELSTEIN

MIKEL HEALEY

It has not taken long for USC Law Prof. Elyn Saks to find a way to spend her 2009 MacArthur Foundation "genius grant."

Saks has founded a center on mental health policy that she hopes will become the best of its kind: the Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy, and Ethics. While headquartered at USC Law, the Institute is a collaborative effort that includes faculty members across seven USC departments: law, psychiatry, psychology, social work, gerontology, philosophy and engineering.

Among the topics Saks plans to examine are coercion in psychiatric research, mental illness and veterans, and the criminalization of mental illness, among others. She has assembled a who's who among mental health experts to serve on the Institute's external board, including Oliver Sacks, Kitty Dukakis and Nobel Laureate Eric Kandel.

"I'm very, very interested in these issues," Saks says. "The idea of having a whole group of people study and work together on an important project is great for me and I think it will be good for the field."

USC Law students also will play an active role with the Institute, conducting research that may include everything from reviewing literature to case-studying organizations.

The Saks Institute held its inaugural symposium last fall. Three nationally respected authorities on mental illness discussed the legal and ethical issues surrounding mechanical restraints in psychiatric hospitals.

Saks selected the topic because of her history with mechanical restraints.

"My first law article was on the use of mechanical restraints and I myself was restrained for long periods of time years ago," she told the audience of more than 130.

Saks gained national prominence in 2007 when her book, *The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey Through Madness*, was published. The memoir details her struggle with and triumph over schizophrenia.

Fletcher Delivers Roth Lecture

BY SHEILA GRADY

Z. SANTOP/STEVE COHN

In contemporary judicial and political debate, few issues elicit such impassioned deliberations as capital punishment. That was the focus of the 2010 Justice Lester W. Roth Lecture, "The Death Penalty: Where Are We Now?" presented by the Honorable William A. Fletcher.

Drawing on his professional experiences as judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and former professor at U.C. Berkeley, School of Law, Fletcher outlined the complex history of capital punishment for a captivated audience of students, faculty and members of the USC Law community.

Before delving into his analysis of specific regional and state tendencies regarding capital punishment, Fletcher reminded the audience of the uniqueness of America's position on the issue.

"The U.S. is unusual among industrialized nations in retaining the death penalty — a distinction that is shared only with Japan and South Korea," he said. "Most of Europe had already renounced it before it was officially abolished by the European Convention on Human Rights in 2002."

Fletcher addressed the roles of poverty and race as undeniable factors in shaping disproportionate percentages of minorities represented on death row and described regional differences in acceptance of capital punishment.

"While public approval is now around 65 percent nationally, this varies regionally," Fletcher explained. "Surprisingly, the South least favors the death penalty but has the most public executions."

One of Fletcher's greatest concerns about the continued use of capital punishment is the conviction and execution of the innocent, he said. While acknowledging that it is unrealistic for the average citizen to know all of the history behind current capital punishment practices, Fletcher said he hopes the public will learn enough to consider implementation of the death penalty more carefully.

"Perhaps we as a country will have eventually seen enough," he said.

Previewing the Supreme Court Term

BY GILIEN SILSBY

Legal scholars gathered at USC Law last fall to review the current U.S. Supreme Court term.

Three constitutional law scholars — Kathleen Sullivan of Stanford University, John Easman of Chapman University and Rebecca Brown of USC Law — discussed the dynamics of the court, the court's future and the recent additions of Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.

The September event, held at USC's University Club and organized by Brown, drew an audience of more than 250 USC Law alumni, law and undergraduate students, faculty, staff and local attorneys.

"It's the sixth term for Chief Justice John Roberts, and I think in many ways it can been seen as truly his court," said USC Provost Elizabeth Garrett, moderator of the event, which was also hosted by student chapters of the Federalist Society and American Constitution Society. "We have a new justice this year, Elena Kagan, and finally for the first time we have three justices on the Supreme Court who are women.

"Something to look out for is the perennial question: What will Justice Anthony Kennedy do in any particular case?"

The panel discussed a variety of cases before the court this year, including *Snyder v. Phelps*, a free speech case involving an anti-gay demonstration at a soldier's funeral; *Flores-Villar v. United States*, a gender case; and *Schwarzenegger v. Entertainment Merchants Association*, which looks at whether California can ban the sale or rental of violent video games to children. The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that the law violated minors' rights under the First and 14th Amendments to the Constitution.

"There's an old view that certain kinds of speech are less protected than others," Sullivan said. "But there's never been a kid exception to the First Amendment."

Although it is not yet before the Supreme Court, Garrett asked the panel to discuss the challenge to Prop. 8, the ban on same-sex marriage in California, which is now in the federal courts. The panel agreed that the issue ultimately will be decided by the Supreme Court.

Attorneys who attended the event received two Continuing Education credits.

BILL YOUNGBLOOD

USC Provost Elizabeth Garrett, Kathleen Sullivan, Dean Robert K. Rasmussen, John Eastman, Prof. Rebecca Brown

HEARD IN THE HALLS...

The J.D. Class of 2013 and LL.M. Class of 2011 entered USC Law in August with impressive credentials. First-years had a median undergraduate GPA of 3.64 and LSAT score of 167. … Ten students, guided by Faculty Advisor Rebecca Lonergan, were named to the USC Law National Moot Court Team for 2010-11. This spring, students will compete in three national-level competitions against oral advocates from top law schools. … USC Law alumni celebrated the three-year anniversary of the Wage Justice Center, established by Matthew Sirolly '05 and Melvin Yee '05 to fight for California's working poor. …

… A book co-edited by Prof. Alexander Capron, *Casebook on Ethical Issues in International Health Research*, was awarded Highly Commended in the Basis of Medicine by the British Medical Association. … Capron also testified at the second meeting of the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues held in Philadelphia in September. … Priya Sridharan was named dean of students. She joined USC Law in 2005 and previously served as director of Career Services. … Dean Robert K. Rasmussen participated in the procession at the inauguration of USC President C.L. Max Nikias in October. … The California Bar Foundation awarded scholarships totaling nearly $20,000 to three students and two 2010 graduates with a career focus in public interest. …

… Prof. Jean Rosenbluth, director of USC Law's Legal Writing and Advocacy Program, spoke about pretrial detention standards and presentence investigation at a symposium in Seoul, Korea, hosted by the Korean Ministry of Justice. … Prof. David Cruz was recognized by the California Legislative LGBT Caucus for his legal contributions to social justice for the LGBT community. … USC Law alumni are invited to cruise the Mediterranean Sea on the 2011 SeaDream Cruise while building scholarship funds for outstanding law students. The exclusive charter of the 50-cabin SeaDream Yacht will tour the historically significant ports-of-call of Rome, Positano, Dubrovnik, Kotor and Athens. The cruise will journey from May 28 to June 4, 2011. For more information, contact Richard Harvey '74, 213.740.9193; rharvey@law.usc.edu.

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Alumni Judges Admit Bar's Newest Members

BY LORI CRAIG

Months after crossing the stage at commencement to collect their diplomas and shift their mortarboard tassels, 97 recent USC Law graduates in December completed the final rite of passage for entering the profession of law.

Surrounded by 200 of their family members, friends and former professors, the alumni, who passed the California Bar Examination in July, were sworn into the state and federal bars at the law school's annual Bar Admission Ceremony. Administering the oaths were two alumni judges: the Honorable Valerie F. Salkin '92, Los Angeles Superior Court judge, and the Honorable Vijay C. Gandhi '97, United States District Court judge for the Central District of California.

"That really is no small task, as California has one of the most difficult and challenging bar examinations," said USC Law Dean Robert K. Rasmussen, noting that USC Law's bar passage rate is higher than 90 percent. "This is one of my favorite traditions here at USC; not only do we get to celebrate your accomplishment in passing the bar, but you get to be sworn in by two USC Law graduates."

Salkin offered 10 recommendations for the new lawyers to consider, including "find a mentor/be a mentor," "don't stop learning" and "use your education to inspire and educate others." Most importantly, she said, "believe in yourself."

"If you do, others will believe in you, too," Salkin said, before swearing the lawyers into the state bar. "And if you know yourself and if you have confidence in yourself and in who you are, there is no limit to what you can accomplish."

Gandhi took a more cautionary tone, urging the lawyers to actively protect their reputations to avoid the "slow, gradual destruction" he has seen too often. He used several anecdotes of sloppy, dishonest or arrogant lawyers to bolster his advice of "Don't be that person" and urged his fellow alumni to focus on courteous relationships, honesty and diligence.

"You will sometimes come across more eloquent lawyers, you'll come across more aggressive lawyers, and — for you law review folks out there — you will come across smarter lawyers," Gandhi said. "But time and time again you see the lawyer who has exhaustively prepared win the day."

Dean Robert K. Rasmussen

Vijay G. Gandhi '97 and Valerie F. Salkin '92

Members of the USC Law Class of 2010 are sworn into the state and federal bars.

PHOTOS: MARIA IACOBO